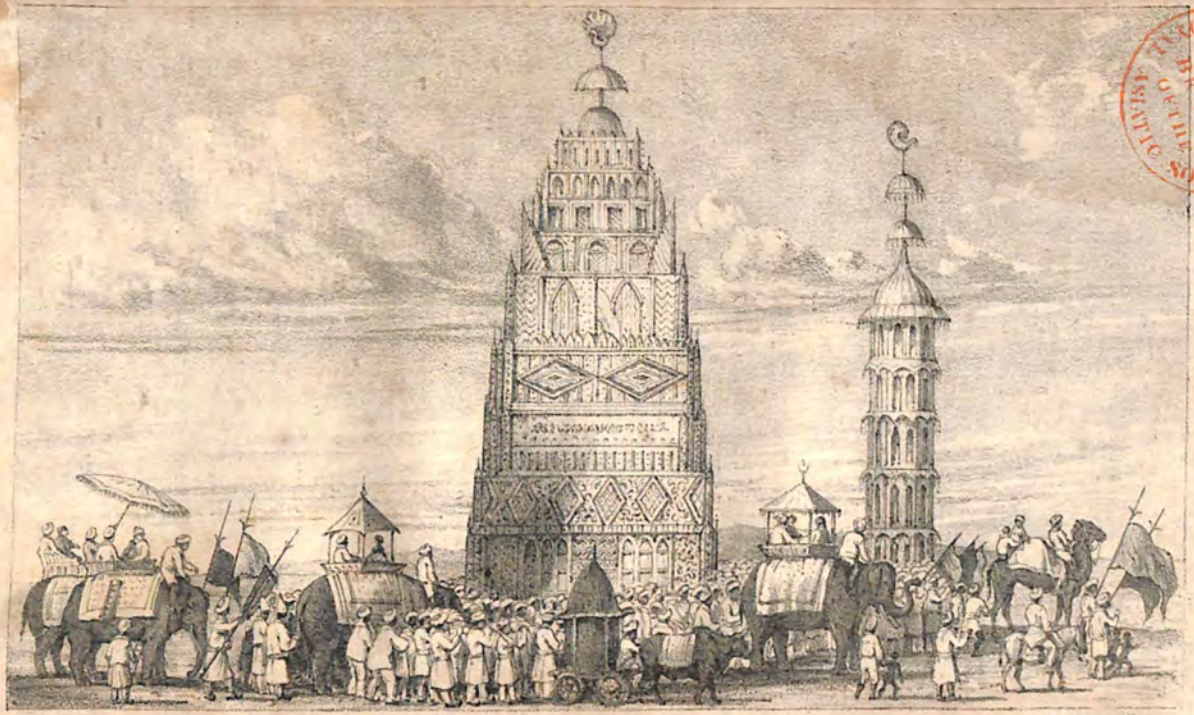
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BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.
TOWN HALL, BOMBAY.

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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

NARRATIVE

OF A

THREE MONTHS' MARCH

IN

INDIA;

AND

A RESIDENCE IN THE DOOAB.

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BY

THE WIFE OF AN OFFICER
IN THE 16TH FOOT.

WITH PLATES,

FROM DRAWINGS MADE ON THE SPOT.

Zel

LONDON:
R. HASTINGS, 13. CAREY STREET,
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1841.


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TO

JOHN GREEN PALEY, ESQ.

OF OATLANDS,

AND LANGCLIFFE IN YORKSHIRE,

This Narrative

OF

THE INCIDENTS AND IMPRESSIONS

WHICH RECEIVED THEIR RISE DURING THE PERIOD

OF A SHORT RESIDENCE IN

BRITISH INDIA,

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY HIS AFFECTIONATE DAUGHTER,

HARRIETTE ASHMORE.

PREFACE.

THE following pages were written during the Author's absence from England, which consisted only of the term of five years. In presenting them to the public, she is not actuated by the idea that she can add any thing to the fund of information which has already accumulated on the subject of our Eastern possessions; but by the feeling that there exist those who will peruse with pleasure a record of the varied hues which gild the ever-changing horizon of the traveller, and of the leading characteristics of those scenes into which so many of the youth of Britain now daily hasten to take a part.

That the observations here strung together have been arranged more with a view to entertain the young and inexperienced wanderer, than the scientific and matured traveller, she is ready to acknowledge.

Most of the notes, as well as the drawings, were hastily made during the bustle and confusion attendant upon marching, but they are faithful representations; and whilst the note-book was the recipient of remarks and first impressions, the drawing pencil was ever the favourite companion of a more leisure hour.

Should there appear, in any of her pages, the slightest tinge of acrimony, it will, she trusts, be attributed to its true source, viz. regret at the sight of talents perverted, and time misapplied. That they are free from personal remarks she feels satisfied; and in the earnest hope that her volume may be the means of conveying entertainment to some, and offence to no one, she requires only good humour in its perusal, and lenity to those imperfections which the distractions attendant upon a numerous family, and the faults of an inexperienced author, have necessarily induced.

Guernsey, Nov. 1840.

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LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY
BRANCH
ATLANTIC

Madeley. Litho. 3 Wellington St. Strand.

CAPE TOWN, FROM TABLE BAY.

JOURNAL,

ETC.

CHAPTER I.

THE VOYAGE.

The Voyage. — Mussulmaun Ayah. — Prayers on Sundays.— Storm.— Catching a Shark. — Pilot Fish.— Funeral at Sea. — Crossing the Line. — Accustomed Ceremonies on the Occasion. — The Southern Constellations. — Capture of an Albatross. — The Cuddy Table in Rough Weather. — Arrival in Simon's Bay. — Visit to Cape Town. — Exquisite Vegetation. — Beautiful Flowers.— Fine Scenery. — Hottentots, their degraded Condition.— Visit to Constantia. — Excellent Wines. — Divine Service on board a Man-of-War. — Perilous Return to Simon's Town.—Mode of Travelling.—Mountain Torrents.—A Weather Gale. — Magellan Clouds.— Approach to the Madras Coast.—Phosphoric Lights. — Splendid Appearance of the Sea. — Flying Fish.

We embarked at Gravesend for India, early in the year 1833, on board the ship Protector, now, alas! a melancholy wreck, and in whose

destruction were involved the lives of upwards of 170 unfortunate beings.* Our fellow passengers were in number about twenty, of whom only two were young ladies bent upon the somewhat hazardous expedient of seeking friends and fortune in India; the greater portion consisted of young cadets in the Honourable Company's Service, full of high hopes, and enjoying bright visions of futurity, just emancipated from Addiscombe, and overjoyed at their newly acquired freedom.

A Mussulmaun Ayah had been engaged to attend upon the ladies on board, and we were not a little amused by her appearance and manners; for as yet our eyes had not become accustomed to the thin muslin garments and gaudy ornaments of the East. Mona's ears were laden with rings and pendents of various forms; her black neck was encircled with in-

* The "Protector" was lost during the past year, in the dangerous navigation of the Sand-heads, at a moment when its many passengers were hailing with delight the approaching termination of their voyage. To ourselves, however, it gave safe conduct to the Eastern Empire, and proved itself an excellent sailer.

numerable silver chains and ornaments; and her arms, from the wrist to the elbow, were encased in bracelets. Nor was this all; for the upper part of her toes was covered with a kind of coat of mail, which passed for silver, and her insteps bore ponderous ornaments of the same metal, at least an inch in thickness. When the sun shone on the deck, Mona was generally to be seen basking in his beams: her head, and the upper part of her person, were enveloped in thin muslin of the most dazzling whiteness; by her side lay her richly embroidered slippers; and not unfrequently was she enjoying the luxurious hubble-bubble, or substitute for the hookah, used by the poorer classes of the natives of India.

During the early part of our voyage we had splendid weather; indeed, to those who had never left our foggy atmosphere before, it was quite enchanting. We experienced a moderate share of tossing in the Bay of Biscay; after which a rapid run, sometimes of 200 knots a day, brought us quickly to the Line. But here we had to encounter constant calms; the vast expanse around us presented an unruffled

surface, so calm, so glassy, that we could scarcely believe it to be the same element which so frequently throws itself into such violent agitations. The only land which had met our view since we left our native shores, was a distant outline of Cape Ortegal, whose bold high land was visible at a distance of twenty or thirty miles on a very clear morning.

After having passed the latitude of Madeira, the heat rapidly increased; but, although very nearly approaching the sun's path, the delicious sea breeze rendered the air of a delightful temperature, and the thermometer only attained 65° in the shade. On entering the torrid zone, however, we were compelled to become more prudent than to expose ourselves to his rays; but an awning being suspended over the deck and poop, enabled us still to enjoy the open air, and to watch the constant changes and incidents which occurred. People talk of the tedium of an Indian voyage: on our way out we knew it not; the days flew quickly past, and only seemed too short for our wishes. On the return of each Sabbath, when the weather permitted, both passengers and ship's crew assembled on the

quarter-deck to join in prayer. The captain became the chaplain, and took his station at the capstan, over which was thrown that flag so dear to every British sailor, the Union Jack.

To me, this was always an imposing sight: many of the men were extremely devout, but scarcely any of them had either Bibles or Prayer-books; consequently, having only occasional opportunities of receiving religious instruction, or joining in public prayer, how slight may its impression be upon their hearts, without the aid of private and more frequent remembrances of their duty! We neared the Cape de Verd Islands, but could not distinguish St. Antonio, although within only a few miles of it, owing to a transient density of the atmosphere.

The first storm it was our lot to encounter, overtook us when within a degree or two north of the Line: we had been becalmed for some days, when it suddenly burst upon us. The most terrific thunder pealed over our heads, and the rain fell in torrents, so as utterly to astonish those who now beheld for the first time a tropical storm. The scene was grand and imposing, as I watched it from my cabin win-

dow: the flashes of lightning were incessant; and as the vessel heaved heavily to and fro, the sea might well be said to run mountains high; at one moment far above us, at the next as mightily receding from our view. I clung to the window frames to enjoy the scene, for it was not without much difficulty that I could maintain my seat for a moment. On the morning after this interlude, the sea again presented an unruffled surface; and the ship's crew were all on the *qui vive* to catch one of those monsters of the deep against which sailors are apt to wage such an endless war — a shark. The creature had been discovered lurking near the vessel, and several hooks were already baited for his reception, one of which he quickly seized, and the eager anglers were anxiously drawing him out of the water, when a desperate struggle, which almost brought his tail into our cabin window, set the captive free, and he was instantly lost to our sight: but it appeared that another and more eager enemy remained: in a few moments, we watched the advance of a second shark, which suddenly and courageously darting forward, in the manner so peculiar to the animal, turned

itself almost over in order to seize the bait, brought the under jaw upwards and greedily swallowed the treacherous morsel. Only an anxious moment elapsed, ere he was secured, as the hook soon pierced his jaw; but a considerable period intervened before he could be brought on board with safety; his struggles were tremendous, and a noosed rope was thrown and secured round his body before he could be drawn up and brought to subjection. The unfortunate shark was nearly 14 feet in length, and met with a sharp reception from his natural foes, who seemed to entertain a demoniacal hatred towards him;—scarcely had he attained the forecastle, when each man who could command a weapon, eagerly dashed it into his victim, and its carcass was soon severed into a hundred pieces. And after all this, what was the advantage to be gained? Noñe whatever; the mangled body was consigned piecemeal to the deep, no doubt to become food for equally ravenous creatures; as of the species to which he belonged the men would not eat, although of a smaller description of shark they are somewhat fond, and assert that its flesh resembles

that of the ox. It was our lot to see several sharks caught in the course of this and a subsequent voyage; but the sport, if such it can be called, is in general much the same, though more art is undoubtedly required to harpoon the monster; and this we saw done on several occasions. The shark is generally attended by one or more pilot-fish,—elegant little creatures with backs striped alternately black and white: they are about a foot in length, and are said to be excellent eating; but why this timid little creature bestows its company so constantly upon its huge acquaintance, appears a marvel, and must be left for naturalists to decide.

Two sucking fish were attached to the shark whose capture is above described: this likewise is a peculiarity which generally attends them. The sucking fish is not commonly more than four inches long, but is endowed with the power of attaching itself to any substance with extraordinary tenacity; indeed, so strongly does it maintain its hold, that it will sometimes suffer itself to be torn in twain rather than withhold its resistance.

Still nearer the Line, our voyage was rather

devoid of external interest, as we had constant calms, or baffling and contrary winds: this drove most of the passengers to their scanty libraries for occupation; and some of us were not sorry for the temporary repose. Our book-shelves, escritoires, and drawing-books always afforded an agreeable resource from *ennui;* besides which, had our own supply of books failed, there were those on board, who were both able and glad to exchange their stores with ours according as circumstances offered. On one evening during this tropical heat, a dog which belonged to the captain appeared in a rabid state, and threw the community into confusion; it made a violent dash at the cuddy window, attracted thither by the lights in the interior, but fortunately was prevented entering,—neither did he succeed in seizing any one on the deck: the alarmed crew were dispersed in all directions; two or three were standing on the capstan, more of them up the rigging, and all in a state of the greatest excitement: since no harm occurred, we could laugh at the ridiculous recollection of that evening, for fear caused strange contortions in some of the men's countenances; however,

after the lapse of a short time, the poor creature in its agony ran on the chains, and immediately fell overboard.

At this period we lost by death one of the passengers; whose health, however, even when leaving England, was not such as to admit of the hope of his reaching the shores of India alive. He was a young officer in the Company's Artillery, and had been for some time in a declining state. His death was the most melancholy of which I have ever heard mention: his last days were agony and despair; and, far from those who were bound to him by kindred ties, his eyes were closed by the stranger, and his last moments embittered by miserable recollections. He died a few hours before sunrise; and at four o'clock on that day, the crew and some of the passengers assembled on the quarter-deck to consign his body to the deep.

The Union Jack concealed the coffin from view; the captain read the form appointed for the service of sea burial, at a given signal the supports were removed, and the coffin was allowed to fall from the gangway into the ocean; it floated as long as it remained in sight; but

we were soon wafted far away, as a breeze had sprung up, and we were going at the rate of ten knots: the gloom, which for a few moments had spread over the assembly, was dispelled, and all faces again wore their accustomed expression. I have seen many funerals at sea, but this first and saddest has left the deepest traces on my recollection.

We crossed the Line at eight o'clock P. M. on the 8th of June, and the ship was immediately hailed by the presiding deity of the Ocean, who promised us a visit in due form on the following morning, and warned us to hold ourselves in readiness for his arrival. After this notice, his godship was supposed to disappear in the form of a blazing tar barrel.

At an early hour the next day, true to his word, and clad in sea-weed, old Neptune stept on board; he was accompanied by Amphitrite and Triton (which latter sounded a trumpet in honour of his father in no measured strains). An uncouth doctor, a barber, a bear, and nondescript followers in abundance, swelled the train of the Sea deity, who advanced to the quarter-deck and graciously shook hands with

the captain. Liberal portions of grog were immediately presented, to which Amphitrite especially seemed particularly partial; and perhaps, to do her justice, she was the best dressed figure in the group, personated by one of the most athletic sailors on board.

All the passengers who had not previously crossed the Line, were then presented to the notice of the visiters, and were expected to make a certain donation in money or tobacco; failing which, they subjected themselves to a sufficiently severe infliction ere they could consider themselves free of the Line. A number of young sailors and midshipmen were in this predicament, and were most unceremoniously treated. Placed blindfold on the edge of a huge barrel of water, certain questions as to parentage and education, &c. were propounded to the stranger, which by coercive measures he was compelled to answer; when, no sooner was the mouth opened, than a brush, newly dipped in tar, was inserted into it, the face being likewise besmeared with the same abominable substance: the barber, moreover, was at hand to accomplish his part of the farce; and with no gentle hand, first feathered and then made pretence to shave

the tormented one: this was done with a piece of rusty iron; and when accomplished, a hasty ablution was performed by a sudden and enforced somerset into the water. Some of the younkers, we were informed, caused very good sport; but the scene, although carried on with sufficient good humour, soon became of too riotous a nature to admit of our long remaining witnesses to it. I believe all the sailors luxuriated in a bath on the occasion; for each man, arming himself with a bucket, splashed water upon every person who ventured before the mast. The evening was closed by some tolerable songs and rather good hornpipes performed by the ship's crew, the heroes of the day.

A few days afterwards we spoke a vessel from Valparaiso, bound to Bahia and thence to England: this afforded us an opportunity of sending letters home, of which we gladly took advantage. The captain and crew of the vessel in question gave a terrible account of their sufferings from cold off Cape Horn, and described icebergs of considerable magnitude as having approached them very closely. Our weather was now delightful, and with favourable winds we soon

again left the torrid zone. Quantities of Cape pigeons then became visible,—a few of which were made prisoners by hook and line; but they lose their beauty when closely inspected, and the elegance, which their motions on the water present, is changed to awkwardness when their web feet and bad gait are exhibited on board a vessel. Numbers of them were cruelly slaughtered by idle and thoughtless young voyagers, who chose to make these tame and harmless little animals, marks on which to exercise their shooting powers.

Our starlit nights were extremely grand. The Southern Constellations were for the first time over our heads, amongst which the Cross shone pre-eminent, whilst our old acquaintance the Great Bear was almost lost to view. In lat. 27° South, and about 34° of West long., we first saw the Magellan clouds; some on board, I believe, among the night watchers, had seen them a few nights earlier than we did. The largest of these extraordinary phenomena was over the Southern Cross, and appeared like a dark cloud, through which, however, stars were visible; whilst the others resembled detached

parts of the Milky Way, and were nearer Argonavis.

About the same degree of South latitude we caught sight of the mighty Albatross wheeling its rapid flight — at one moment close to the vessel, at the next far away on the distant horizon: one, however, was disabled and captured by a tolerably expert marksman, and a boat put off to fetch it on board. It measured twelve feet from the tip of one wing to that of the other, and being an old one was nearly white: when in the prime of life, they have deep brown backs and wings, and sometimes attain a larger growth than the one we saw.

The first day of July brought with it several untoward events. The weather was extremely tempestuous, consequently falls and overturns were numerous. Early in the morning, my poor old Ayah was handing me a cup of tea, whilst I clung to my cot with the greatest difficulty; when the vessel rolled violently, and sent Mona sprawling on the cabin floor, now to larboard, now to starboard: crashed were the cup and saucer into a thousand pieces, whilst the hot beverage ran in every direction; but poor

Mona had the worst of the business, for in vain did she attempt to seize hold of any substantial article of furniture; every thing eluded her grasp, and she was sadly bruised before she could recover herself. In the midst of this trouble, my writing desk escaped from its lashings; when down it went, its well-filled ink-stand throwing the sable fluid over every thing that came in its way. We were each moment reminded that we were off the terrible and appropriately termed Cape of Tempests: at the cuddy table an accumulation of mishaps occurred; a servant was crossing the quarter-deck laden with a covered dish, when a sea struck the vessel and overthrew the unfortunate man, who was instantly thoroughly drenched with salt water, whilst the broken crockery revealed to our view the scattered ingredients of a savoury Irish stew. The cuddy table presented no ordinary appearance: every article that could by any possibility alter its position, traversed the table; pies, biscuit-trays, dishes, &c. &c., all were in motion; the leg of mutton, rolling in grotesque irregularity, once more came in contact with its kindred shoulder; poultry and pork were again in motion,

and sand bags proved themselves of little avail. But, perhaps, the most ludicrous part of the whole was to watch the countenances of the passengers, who were tenaciously clinging to their seats, at the same time trying, successfully or otherwise, to retain their replenished plates, knives and forks. As for the ship surgeon, he received more than one dish with its contents upon his lap, and was at length compelled to vacate his station at the end of the table. Similar scenes to these were unfortunately of too frequent recurrence at that period of the voyage.

On the 2d and 3d of July we were anxiously looking forward to our arrival in Simon's Bay, as the captain intended to put in for a week, should the wind prove favourable: however, on the latter day we almost despaired of making it; and a few hours more would have seen us on our way to Madras, had not a pilot perceived our exertions, and come on board to render us assistance. He promised that we should be at anchor off Simon's Town before morning; and he kept his word.

Most of the passengers sat up all night to behold the beautiful Alpine scenery of the Southern

point of Africa, and few were present at the breakfast table the next morning; all who could, had decamped for Cape Town. The anchor was cast at half-past 4 A.M.; and the fine rocky scenery which greeted our view on the right hand and on the left, was cheering indeed, after the monotonous boundary of sea and sky which had so long been our portion.

We landed on the 4th of July; but as we could not procure horses or a carriage to convey us to Cape Town on that day, we amused ourselves by wandering in the neighbourhood of Simon's Town.

Mr. Ouseburn (well known under the name of "King John") showed us his gardens, and loaded us with exquisite geraniums and China roses: it was the depth of the Cape winter, but nothing could be more luxuriant than the hedge-rows of flowering myrtle and geraniums towering far above our heads. A small rich fruit called the Laquotte was just becoming ripe; I thought it delicious; and the rich perfume of mignionette and a thousand exotics filled the air with fragrance. We dined at the Clarence Hotel, where many of our fellow travellers were, like

ourselves, detained, and where all paid a high price for very indifferent fare.

Towards evening, we strolled through the town, which is a pretty little fishing place, built much in the Dutch style, and in which Rear Admiral Warren is at present stationed; on emerging from it, we ascended a hill, which enabled us to obtain an excellent view of the bay and its boundary of rocky heights, whilst beyond them were hill above hill as far as the eye could reach.

We had, however, abundant cause for admiration nearer at hand; for it was impossible to step without being struck with the extraordinary beauty and variety of the heaths, which carpeted both hill and dale. Of these we plucked a large quantity, but were very far from obtaining a specimen of each exquisite variety. There are, on the side of one of the hills above Simon's Town, a few mud huts, which would apparently afford something like adequate shelter for the cattle, which are turned out to seek their food in their vicinity; but these, we were told, are inhabited by upwards of 150 Mozambique people, who were taken

from a slave ship, and received together with their liberty, permission to inhabit that small portion of round.

Before returning to the "Protector" for the night, we had the pleasure of seeing a conveyance arrive for our use on the following morning; this had been procured and despatched by one of our fore-runners to Cape Town. On reaching my cabin, I was most agreeably regaled by the music of a well-appointed horn band, which was on board the Isis frigate, then lying in the bay: several familiar airs stole sweetly over the untroubled waters, on which the moon shone brilliantly. The bold outlines of the hills were clearly discernible, and their deep shadows cast upon the waters; — it was a scene truly soothing and delightful.

Cape Town, whither we started at an early hour the next day, is distant about twenty-five miles from Simon's Town, for the first six of which our road lay along the beach and beneath the overhanging rocks which we had admired so much when viewed from a little distance: winding along their base, we caught splendid and ever varying views of the bay; but in some parts the

sand was so yielding, that when our horse stopped for a moment to take breath, his feet and the wheels of the vehicle sank so deeply into the sand that no efforts of the driver could set us again in motion. We really began to fear that we should be lost in a quicksand, when fortunately a Scotchman, who chanced to be wandering on the beach, saw and compassionated our condition; he proved himself a good Samaritan, and putting his shoulder to the wheel, enabled the horse to overcome his difficulties, and we were again *en route* and ascending a hill which led us more into the interior of the country. If possible, the scenery increased in interest; we were strongly reminded of many parts of Scotland; and when we had reached the summit of the first height, a distant and perfectly flat plain lay extended before us; it appeared to have been left by the sea at no very distant period, but is now full of verdure and cultivation. Our horizon was still bounded by conical and rocky mountains; hill beyond hill opened on our view, and a world of Alpine scenery was before us, diversified by an occasional lake in the centre of rich pasture and meadow land. On one hand

we could still discern the bay we had left, and on its distant shore were rocky eminences similar to those which so enchanted us in our immediate vicinity. Our road was bounded by Rhododendrons in full bloom, and by the sugar plant, whose tulip-like blossoms afforded a luscious repast to the beautiful little honey-bird, which rapidly glided from flower to flower. Splendid specimens of the Cactus and towering African aloe, added to innumerable flowers, which in England we had been accustomed to see only in the hot-houses, presented an accumulation of floral riches which would have thrown a botanist into an ecstasy of delight; nor must I omit again to mention the endless variety of heaths, and the prickly pear, which becomes an impenetrable fence, and attains the height of eight or ten feet.

We stopped for an hour at Farmer Peck's cottage to rest the horse, and to refresh ourselves with excellent Constantia, &c., and then proceeded on our way. We saw a few Hottentots—miserable looking creatures, who were crouching near their still more wretched looking huts: their faces bore the stamp of idiotism; and these

savage inhabitants of the southern extremity of Africa resembled in countenance and grimace the lowest order of the baboon race: degraded in moral and physical inclinations to a level with the brute creation, the unfortunate wretches who crossed our path were to be seen almost devoid of clothing, and mumbling and grinning in pitiable imbecility.

As we approached nearer to Cape Town, we passed a number of convicts working in chains; one English soldier being on guard over every two prisoners, who were, however, all either Africans or Malays. The roadside became diversified by formal but pretty looking houses in the Dutch style, and inhabited by Dutch people. It was difficult to imagine ourselves in Africa, the air was so fresh and cool, although the sun was rather powerful; but the Dutch buildings, with their pre-eminently neat and luxuriant gardens, carried us in imagination to the rich banks of the Amstel, and the "Lust Haus" of the merchant of Amsterdam; but the traveller, amidst the dykes of Holland, would look in vain for any thing resembling the towering heights of the land of the wretched

Hottentot, where we gazed with delight on the craggy front of Table Mountain.

I am not going to enter into a description of Cape Town; my intention is merely to remark upon what struck ourselves as being its most interesting features. Situated at the foot of Table Mountain, which rises about 3300 feet above the level of the sea, and looking upon an expansive bay, Cape Town possesses considerable claims to admiration. Its museum contains some good specimens of fish and birds, well preserved, besides other curiosities; but the collection is small, and kept in indifferent order. M. Villet has a smaller, but a much more interesting, collection for sale, in which are some exquisite specimens of Cape birds.

Cape Town has a tolerable public library, and a church has lately been added to its public buildings; its fort is occupied by a regiment of infantry, and another regiment finds quarters in barracks.

The village of Constantia is situated midway between Simon's Town and Cape Town. A party of us mounted some of the lively little

Cape horses one fine morning, and paid a visit to the Dutch manufacturer of its celebrated wines, who entertained us most hospitably, and insisted upon our tasting a variety of his stores.

The wine made from the Frontignac grape received the most encomiums from our party, but it was luscious in the extreme. The grapes are in perfection in April, and are of so sweet a nature that they may be dried and preserved for two or even more years without the aid of sugar, bearing all the appearance of raisins.

We walked into the Dutchman's orangery, in which were rows of trees laden with their golden fruit, a few of which the heat of the day tempted us to gather. Lemons, too, were hanging in profusion on their branches; but the perfume arising from such a combination of sweet scents was almost overpowering.

On our return from Constantia, one of our party, having been trying the speed of the horse on which he was mounted with that of one of his companions, unfortunately lost his saddle, which turned round under him, and finally lost its fastenings altogether. In this predicament, we gave him much credit for re-

taining his seat: but it was not long that he did so; for the animal, getting the bit in his teeth, set off at full gallop, and soon displaced his rider, who, however, reached the ground without sustaining any injury. The discomfited horseman found a seat behind a friend, but the steed was not to be easily recovered: away we all went in search of it; but for some time could meet with no traces of the animal, until at length a peasant informed us of the place of its retreat; but the saddle was irrecoverable, having, without doubt, been found and secreted by some one interested in the discovery.

We did not return to "George's Hotel," in which were our quarters, until after sunset, having ridden nearly thirty miles; as, in addition to this mishap, we lost our way by following a romantic path up the side of a mountain, which we had ultimately to retrace.

We enjoyed many delightful rides at the Cape; sometimes following the beach for several miles; at others, taking a road which conducted us round a projecting point, we partly ascended the hills, and gained a splendid

view of the bay, the sea, and rocky projections along its shore.

A few cottages ornées are amongst the rocks, and the scene was at that period of the year quiet and grand; but during some seasons it is a dangerous and awful coast.

Occasionally we collected a few good specimens of shells, and several pieces of sponge, a considerable quantity of which production is found on this shore, although of an inferior quality to that which is yielded by the Archipelago and Indian seas.

One day we rode to Constantia, surnamed "The Great," in contradistinction to the other one, which is called "The Little," and near to which it is situated: this latter is the property of an Englishman, and is most romantically situated amongst rocky mountains. We were shown into the well filled store-houses, and again pressed to taste each variety of wine, amongst them the red and white muscadine and Frontignac. It was not easy to give the preference to any each was good of its kind; and a considerable number of orders were iven for casks to be prepared, and sent on

board the "Protector," before its departure from Simon's Bay. We also visited a pretty little village, called Wineberg, and enjoyed our emancipation from ship-board as much as possible. At length the day arrived for our return to the vessel; but unluckily, on the night previous, a very heavy fall of rain swelled the mountain torrents to no agreeable height; we, however, engaged a Cape waggon, as being the most commodious, and, under the circumstances, the safest mode of conveyance: it was drawn by eight horses, and allowed space for nine passengers; but five only on this occasion were to be its inmates.

On reaching the sands, about six miles from Simon's Town, we discovered two of our fellow passengers at a stand still, in the midst of one of the streams, with the traces of their horse broken, and the animal utterly unable to stir. Having rendered them all the aid in our power, we drove cheerily on, and arrived at Simon's Town, and reached the vessel in safety. No sooner had we got on board, than we received the unpleasant information that a mutiny had broken out amongst the ship's crew, owing to

an extra quantity of grog having been procured by them from the shore, or served out to them in consideration of more than ordinary labour.

Our feelings were not of the most agreeable nature, and we regretted that we had not remained at Cape Town somewhat longer: however, it was better as it was; for on the following morning, the appearance of some officers from the Isis frigate, and I believe the removal of one man, restored tranquillity to the little community; the passengers likewise, being all on board, and the ship in readiness to start, the anchor was raised, and we soon found ourselves again under full sail.

We reached False Bay without accident; but when there met with discomfiture; for a strong south-easter springing up unexpectedly, the anchor, which had been cast for the night, could not be recovered, the windlass was shattered to splinters, the cable cut, and minus an anchor, we again sought the shelter of Simon's Bay.

The captain and most of the younger voyagers were speedily off to Cape Town; whilst those who remained on board had to wait with what

patience they could, for dinners which were three times upset in the kitchen, on account of the unceremonious treatment of the vessel by the south-east wind.

On Sunday, the 14th of July, we went on board the "Isis," to prayers, and were gratified with a view of the vessel, which was under orders for a cruise on the African coast. During divine service the horns played at intervals, and we had an opportunity of listening to a good discourse from the chaplain who was on board.

After partaking of a handsome repast in the gun-room, we returned to the "Protector," but not until several of our party had received and accepted invitations to an entertainment on board on a subsequent day. I mention this, as it was attended with some curious circumstances.

On the evening of that day we proceeded to Cape Town, but unfortunately in a vehicle which possessed not the luxury of springs; it had been secured for us by a fellow passenger, who likewise took his seat in it; we had six horses, and three Malay attendants who kept the animals at the top of their speed. The rain

poured in torrents, and the jolting of the carriage was intolerable: notwithstanding the exertions of men and beasts, we did not reach Cape Town until late, and then could not obtain a private sitting room. Here was a dilemma! for we were cold and comfortless. Fortunately a happy party from the "Protector" were enjoying themselves over a blazing hearth, in a commodious apartment, and kindly proffered seats near their fire, which we were delighted to accept.

On the day following we returned to Simon's Bay, regretting much that we had been tempted to make this second excursion, as the rain, which had fallen incessantly for the last three days, had rendered the passage across the sands extremely dangerous, and it was not without some fear that we prepared to retrace our road.

Being, however, under an engagement to the officers of the "Isis," we were unwilling to delay our return until the next day, which would have rendered its fulfilment impossible (though, had we possessed the gift of foreknowledge, we need not have troubled ourselves on the occasion).

In a light carriage drawn by six horses, and this time hung upon springs, we set out and passed Fishhook Bay in safety, being only admonished of danger by the sight of the carcases of six or eight bullocks which had been attacked and mangled by wolves on the previous night. These animals exist in great numbers amongst the mountains, and make occasional inroads into the villages,—always assembling themselves for these predatory excursions in powerful packs. We reached Elsey Bay, after encountering several mountain torrents which filled me with alarm, when the last dangerous pass presented itself: soon we thought we should be out of our troubles, and were congratulating ourselves, when, lo! we discovered that the Malays had mistaken the part which would have been most fordable, and had approached within a short distance of the open sea: in a moment the carriage was all but overturned, and would undoubtedly have been carried away by the violence of the waters, had not the wheels on one side become jammed between two large stones; the vehicle itself resting sideways, and being partially inundated. The two hindmost horses

were speedily immersed, their footing lost, the pole and traces broken; and their leaders, released from thraldom, gaily splashed and scrambled to the rocky and adjacent bank.

One of the Malays carried us in his arms to *terra firma*, but not until many threats had been employed to compel him to do so; his anxiety was for his half drowned horses, which lay powerless and sinking fast into the sand.

The night was by this time much advanced; and whilst we stood watching the men drag the shattered carriage to land, I could not help thinking how easily the wolves might attack us, — particularly as we had a fair prospect of remaining in this wretched plight for many hours; as it would be next to impossible to harness the horses again to the carriage.

At length, to our joy, a dark mass appeared in the almost total darkness, and a bullock waggon, heavily laden with ship stores, made itself heard rather than seen. The driver of this kindly rendered our Malays what assistance they required to bring their carriage to land, and into the proper road, and at our earnest request allowed us to clamber into his waggon;

which proved, however, no agreeable mode of conveyance, for it was not without the greatest difficulty that we could prevent ourselves from falling off the narrow plank on which we were perched, high above the two last of sixteen bullocks. I would have sought the interior of the waggon, and indeed was on the point of so doing, but my first grasp proved to be upon the outstretched neck of a goose, which unintentional insult on my part so irritated the whole flock, that our ears were stunned for several minutes by their united clamour; and we became aware that the ponderous vehicle was filled with calves, sheep, and fowls, for the vessels in the bay.

After this unsuccessful attempt, we became satisfied to remain upon our plank, and retain our hold in the best manner we could; accordingly, in due time, we reached the Clarence Hotel, where we slept, and had the satisfaction of hearing the Malays cracking their long whips and bringing in their damaged carriage about sunrise the next morning.

Having returned to the "Protector," and prepared for our engagement on board the Isis,

we waited patiently for a boat to put off from the latter vessel to take us on board, as the officers had proposed that mode of transmission, and had mentioned it to several of our party; but, lo! no boat arrived, and we heard, to our astonishment, that no company was expected, and no fête in contemplation. What caused this misunderstanding, we never had an opportunity of learning, as no subsequent communications took place between the two vessels; certain it is, that the invitations were given, and the gentlemen included in them disposed to look somewhat offended; but, fortunately, the Protector put out to sea the next morning with a fair wind, and the *contre-temps* was obliged to be forgotten; and whether it arose through a mistake amongst the officers themselves, in a subsequent alteration of their plans, or through some strange misconception on our parts, still remains a mystery.

A fine breeze carried us out of Simon's Bay at the rate of ten knots an hour, and soon brought us into a troubled ocean; for we did not, during the whole voyage, experience such severe tossing as that which greeted us off Cape Aiguillas.

From that period until the 12th of August there are but few notes in my diary, as the severe weather prevented any approach to the escritoire; but on that day a steady south-west trade wind cheered the captain's heart, and he hoped to reach Madras by the end of the month. Our spirits, too, had been much depressed by seeing the announcement of the death of a near relative in England, through the means of a newspaper which had been brought on board by one of the passengers from Cape Town. In consequence of this loss, we confined ourselves principally to our cabin, and felt but little inclination to join in the amusements or conversation of others.

On one morning, when the waves ran very high and the sun shone brilliantly, I was much delighted with what the sailors call a weather gall, but which resembles a rainbow far below the surface of the waters. The colours were extremely distinct, and brightly contrasted with that of the deep blue sea; whilst the spray which was carried upwards by the wind, continued the varied hues, and crowned the weather gall with splendour. Reading had again be-

come our most agreeable resource; and amongst other works, the "Life of Sir William Jones" offered many attractions, and proved extremely interesting. We had reached the latitude which rendered the Magellan clouds visible, and we found great amusement in studying the Southern hemisphere, of which some of the constellations are so peculiarly remarkable. Our weather was agreeable from this time, and on the 14th of August we re-entered the torrid zone. On that day a lamentable accident occurred in the death of a young sailor, who fell from the mizen-mast, and expired almost instantaneously; his skull was dreadfully fractured, and some of his limbs were broken.

The poor man, whose name was Hunt, was a native of Dumfries-shire, and had scarcely attained his twentieth year, when this sad misfortune caused his mangled body to be consigned to a trackless grave.

Our thermometer quickly rose, and we crossed the Line once more, in longitude 82° East. The trade wind had by that time deserted us, and our progress became extremely slow. I had plenty of leisure time in which to finish some of

the rough sketches I had made at the Cape; and "Keith's Evidences of Prophecy," "Volney's Ruins of Empire," and some selected parts of "Berkley's Works," afforded us ample occupation. Thunder and lightning became quite a matter of course, and during the nights it was awfully beautiful. We crossed the sun's declination on the 31st of August, and were soon again able to trace his progress in the heavens as of old, from left to right; for the strange appearance of the sun's apparent motion from the right hand to the left had, on our first viewing it, presented a very novel appearance, and we seemed indeed to have reached another sphere. On the 31st of August we neared Ceylon; but notwithstanding that certain parts of the vessel had been secretly rubbed with cinnamon water, &c., we could not fancy that we inhaled its spicy gales. Our thermometer was at this time about 84° in the shade, but the heat by no means overpowering. We, however, hailed with delight our near approach to land, and before long came in sight of the Madras coast.

At this period our nights were particularly beautiful: during the voyage, we had often ad-

mired the phosphoric appearance of the sea; but during the moonless nights at this time it was beyond imagination splendid, and on one or two occasions I could not refrain from watching it for some hours from our cabin window; in the ship's wake, even to some distance, it was like a deposit of liquid silver, whilst still further off, and towards the sides of the vessel, it broke out in sudden and brilliant lights, which spread themselves in all directions.

During the calm weather, too, in the torrid zone, we were frequently amused by watching the flying fish dart out of the water in large shoals; they did not appear to rise more than ten or twelve feet above the surface, but their flight occupied several moments.

A number were taken in the rigging, where they had been thrown by the spray; and one or two were very well set up and preserved by a gentleman on board. They are pretty little creatures, about eight inches in length, and their long fins certainly have very much the appearance of wings.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival at Madras. — Catamaran Boats. — High Surf. — Wild Appearance of the Natives. — Their Officiousness to Strangers. — Description of a Gentleman's House and its Furniture. — St. George's Church. — Bishop Heber's Monument, by Chantrey. — Languid Appearance of the Europeans. — Tatties. — Jugglers. — Lizards. — Pagoda of Juggernaut. — The Hoogly. — The Approach to Calcutta. — Arrival at Calcutta.

NEVER can I forget the strange scenes which presented themselves to our view on first reaching Madras. To an European, they cannot fail of exciting the most bewildering astonishment.

We anchored in the roads on the 3d of September, and were quickly surrounded by "catamarans," or small native boats, each holding one, or at most two, naked savages. These poor creatures came off in the hope of disposing of some of their fruit, vegetables, and fish, either in exchange for the smallest coin, or for old coloured silk handkerchiefs, &c.

Their mouths were filled with betel, which they incessantly chew; its deep red tinged their tongues and ran from their mouths, which were constantly opened in shouts and demoniacal yells, thus giving them the appearance of wild beasts rising from a feast upon a newly slain victim. The surf was extremely high, but the Catamaran Jacks, as they are called, pushed themselves along, often using only one oar, and standing upon the three little planks which separated them from the deep; now thrusting the oar into the water on one side, now on the other, and looking like demons walking on the surface of the sea.

No sooner were we fairly at anchor, than a great number of larger boats came off shore to the ship, and by which several of the passengers proposed to land. Some of these latter boats were ten or twelve feet in depth, had about two feet of water in them, and bounded upon the water like empty barrels. They were manned (if such a term can be applied to such beings) by about twenty natives; but who shall describe — far less, without hearing it, conceive — the noise and clamour which ensued on and

around the "Protector." Hundreds of voices were raised at the same moment in the shrillest and most discordant tones; whilst the appearance of so many blacks, their nakedness, and apparent indifference to the burning heat of the mid-day sun, were quite sufficient to persuade the stranger that he had suddenly visited the infernal regions; nor wanted he the powerful imagination of the authors of the "Æneid," or of "Vathek," to add new horrors to the scene around him.

Having letters of introduction to some residents at Madras, our first care was to have them delivered, which was accordingly done; and, having received notice that on the following day our arrival would be looked for, we prepared to leave the vessel for a week's residence on the banks of the Addy Aar river, about seven miles from the town. As we were not disposed to venture in any of the boats already seen, we had an accommodation boat brought off for us by five o'clock the next morning. These are fitted up with an awning, and served by ten rowers decently clad, and a head-man in turban and clothing white as snow. The

surf was dreadfully high, and my alarm was excessive. The rowers shrieked in the most horrid way, keeping up a kind of chorus; and when the danger seemed most imminent, and I really thought no human exertions could surmount the terrible waves, still more horrible became their grimaces and yells. At length we reached the sandy shore, but no landing place was there: the boat was seized by about fifty natives, who rushed into the water for the purpose: at least a dozen men carried a chair high in the air for my reception; and into it I gladly scrambled, overjoyed to get out of the boat, but not much more agreeably seated in the midst of so many unclad beings. They, however, quickly carried me off, and in the course of a few minutes I found myself in a crowd of blacks, who were all jabbering to me and to each other in a language totally unintelligible to myself; many of them attempted to seize our boxes, which they were hastily carrying away to the Custom-house. When I was allowed to descend from my arm chair, my officious attendants attempted to force me into a palanquin which stood near; one man possessed

himself of my little hand punkah, another held my parasol, whilst a dozen others watched lest a ray of sunshine should fall upon my head, and give a claim to any of them to alter its position. My handkerchief was carried by one person, and each of my gloves by others: vain was it for me to attempt to retain any thing; so I mentally bade them all farewell, and expected not to see them again. Being joined by my husband, we proceeded to the Custom-house, but not until a sufficient distribution of wholesome chastisement, or at any rate threats of the same, had in some measure enabled us to see where our luggage really was. Nothing could exceed the confusion of that scene, but, like all others, it had its termination. We reached the Custom-house, bribed the officer with a rupee not to open our boxes, and then gladly took refuge in a carriage, which our friend, the Advocate-General (Mr. Bathie), had despatched for our use. After all this mighty attendance, in which so many poor creatures had lent a helping hand, the distribution amongst them of a few small copper coins perfectly satisfied their

expectations, and we proceeded in quietness to our destination.

We were delighted with the first appearance of Madras; some of the public buildings are very handsome, the roads extremely good and wide, and smooth as the finest gravel walk; the novel scene was interesting in the extreme. On advancing into the country, the picturesque palmyrus, the less graceful cocoa-nut trees, the strangely dressed natives, and the curious native carriages, the buffaloes, palanquins, &c. all presented an attraction. Arrived at our friend's residence, we were most kindly received, and led into a large octagonal room, surrounded by doors or windows down to the ground, each one of which was supplied with open Venetian blinds, through which at that time of day came a deliciously cool air; a sofa stood in the centre of the room, and afforded an acceptable resting place. Coffee was immediately handed by several attendants, and we soon afterwards adjourned to our own apartments to make our toilets before breakfast.

Those who have seen India, may think it but a frivolous occupation to attempt a description

of its most familiar features; but though many are the persons who visit its shores in the present day, yet still more numerous are they who gladly or compulsorily remain in the land of their birth; to these latter, then, I appeal, and ask if they will not derive pleasure from a recital of those events which fill the mind of the newly arrived traveller in India with the deepest astonishment.

The house allotted to our use was detached from the one inhabited by Mr. Bathie, and we ascended to it by a handsome flight of stairs; from its windows we commanded a delicious view of the river and adjacent country, and adjoining it was a garden in which was a profusion of flowers and flowering shrubs. Our habitation consisted of several rooms; but the largest and most central was the sleeping apartment; in its centre stood an ample couch, at least ten feet square, and of proportionate height from the ground, upon which was a hard mattress, covered with the finest India matting; it was entirely surrounded and protected from the intrusion of the musquito by the lightest and most transparent green gauze curtain. This room boasted

of eight doors or windows: three on each side opened on handsome terraces paved with chunam; the windows, as usual, guarded by what are called jhil-mils, which open or shut at pleasure, and which in a great measure resemble the Venetian blinds. One door led to a bath room appropriated for a lady's use, and the other conducted to the saloon; besides these, were a gentleman's bath room, and some smaller apartments.

Having refreshed ourselves in the best manner we were able, we had the pleasure of seeing our kind friend arrive to breakfast in our saloon. Four or five servants were in attendance, all of whom are called boys, be their age or station what it may. These boys were handsomely dressed and officiously attentive; but their rank, I afterwards found, is very inferior to that of the household servants employed in Bengal.

After breakfast, the gentlemen set out for Madras, whilst I remained to muse over the varied scenes which it was my lot to visit, and to make notes of what had most struck my fancy.

On the evening of Sunday we drove to St.

George's Church: it is a very handsome building, extremely lofty and much ornamented; and large white pillars covered with chunam (but which I took for marble), support an elaborate roof. Amongst several good monuments, is a beautiful one by Chantrey, which was erected by subscription to the memory of Bishop Heber, and in which that prelate is represented in the act of confirming two native children; the expression of his countenance is sublime; and I think I have seldom seen a monument which struck me more, unless it be the one in Lichfield Cathedral to the memory of the early lost sisters. But what struck me much was the appearance of the congregation; they all looked so wan, so dreadfully languid, and not a shade of colour tinged their cheeks or lips: the attire of the ladies was handsome, but by far the greater number were dressed in white; to me they looked like ghosts clad in the garments of the living world. The heat was great, and much increased by the profusion of lights which were used to illumine so spacious an edifice: the voices of the clergymen who officiated were tremulous and indistinct; and though the service

was short, every one seemed to think the time of detention sufficiently prolonged. We returned home under a brilliant moon, whilst myriads of fire-flies glanced amongst the trees, and covered the hedge rows as with a sheet of liquid fire.

At this period there had been a dreadful dearth of water: it was the month of September; but the rainy season, which in ordinary years commences in June or July, had been withheld; —the country was dried up, the crops totally lost, and the most terrible famine had ensued in many of the provinces, whilst the wretched labourers and poor of the villages had been driven to the Presidency in search of a miserable livelihood. Numbers had perished on the way by the ravages of disease and want; and thousands were, at the time of which I speak, receiving relief from the public bounty, —a small quantity of food being served out to each wretched mendicant daily.* But I shall again have to allude to this dreadful scourge,

* The disease induced by the presence of so many sick, rendered it necessary that they should be sent to the Red Hills, as a precautionary measure.

as on a subsequent occasion the horrors of famine were presented to us in still more vivid colours. Our thermometer in the house was generally at 90°; but so much care was taken to exclude the heat, and to procure a cooling breeze by means of tatties, that we did not suffer much inconvenience. The tatties are very simply constructed;—a short time since I saw a small bundle of the Cuscus offered for sale in one of the London bazaars: it is from this root that the tattie is made. Found and dug in the jungles, it is brought in large quantities to the cities at certain seasons of the year; it is extremely sweet scented, and is used as a thatch upon a light bamboo frame-work, which is fitted exactly into the doors or verandahs, which are most suitable for the purpose, as being the most exposed to the influence of the hot winds. These tatties are kept constantly wetted; large earthen vessels are placed near each window, and filled with water, whilst the "bhestie," or water-carrier, has only to keep them replenished from the well, and to throw the water on the tatties at short intervals: this man, however, having always a very hot

station, and no very laborious duty, is more apt than, perhaps, any other of the household establishment, to fall into comfortable slumbers; consequently, unless the occupant of the interior be somewhat vigilant, there is considerable chance that a hot wind, instead of a cool and scented one, will make its way into the apartment.

One evening, after we had dined, a party of jugglers requested to be allowed to exercise their powers of legerdemain, and were accordingly admitted. Many of their tricks were most wonderful; a Cobra di capello was exhibited in states of irritation and of subjection to its owner. Several other snakes were made to appear and disappear in a most unaccountable manner; at one moment I held the dried and withered skin of one in my hand, but before the next instant it became an animated and living reptile. Their feats were very numerous, and extremely cleverly performed, and we readily gave the due meed of praise and recompence to the Indian juggler. Towards evening, we occasionally drove to the strand; but there were not many carriages, and but little to amuse,

more especially as no one was there before half-past five, and it was quite dark by six o'clock: to this method of passing the cool hours of the evening, I far preferred a row or sail on the river near our residence; and in this manner we made several very pleasant excursions.

One lovely morning, before sunrise, I detached the little boat from its moorings, and rowed myself across the placid water to the opposite bank, where I jumped on shore and found myself in a perfect parterre. I thought I should never have satisfied myself with the variety of flowers which presented themselves in such abundance; but as my object had been to gain a view of our friend's house from a favourable situation for a sketch, I was obliged at length to devote myself to the drawing, and was soon afterwards warned by the intense heat of the sun to seek a shelter even from his first rays.

On one or two occasions, the gentlemen ventured on the water during the heat of the day; but this is an imprudence, which, though sometimes committed with impunity even for years, is sure to be dearly paid for at last.

Our friend was a healthy fine looking young man, and had braved the Eastern mid-day sun for many years; but we had scarcely left Madras before we heard of his death, occurring from exposure in the jungles, whither he had gone, I believe, on a shooting excursion, and where a jungle fever terminated his existence.

During the mornings, I occasionally amused myself with the native merchants, who brought their wares and exposed them for sale in great abundance; but I believe I had no cause to congratulate myself upon making purchases *à la bonne marché*, for these men are the greatest rogues in the world, and though I only gave one third of their demands, yet I afterwards discovered that I had paid considerably more for their articles than I ought to have done. A lady, who had become our fellow-passenger from the Cape of Good Hope, accompanied me one morning to a large school, where the most exquisite needle-work is taught; indeed, I think it far superior to the justly celebrated Moravian work which we meet with in Europe, and, like it, the price was very costly.

I used to enjoy the quietude of Madras;

whilst seated in the octagonal saloon, a strong breeze from the river constantly refreshed me. The lizards chirped and ran along the walls in search of flies; for though in England we have a strong prejudice against these little creatures, and should probably condemn them to death, yet in India the eye and ear become quickly accustomed to them, and I only regarded them as I should have done little intrusive singing birds. The squirrels, too, frequently ran across the floor, and even within a few yards of where I was seated; they are smaller and much lighter coloured than the squirrels of England, and are distinguished by three dark marks down the back.

As our stay in Madras was very short, we had not much opportunity of seeing many of its resident inhabitants; but our friend kindly assembled a number of his acquaintances, amongst whom we met with some very agreeable persons. On the whole, we left Madras with very pleasing impressions; and I shall ever recollect with delight the short but happy period which we passed with our agreeable but early lost friend.

On Saturday, the 9th of September, we were

again on the wide ocean: our embarkation was effected with much greater facility than had been our landing, although we were again surrounded by savage looking barbarians; but the surf was moderate, and its dangers more easily surmounted. A great number of ground sharks lurk amidst this surf, and even approach quite close to the city. Instances are, consequently, not uncommon of natives being attacked and carried off by them; and woe to the occupants of any unfortunate boat which might be upset in this locality; little chance, indeed, would there be of escaping the two-fold dangers of the raging surf and the voracious ground shark.

On the 12th of September we came in view of the great Pagoda of Juggernaut, which affords an excellent land-mark, as the country adjacent is extremely flat: it presented merely a huge tower and a heavy mass of buildings; but it was impossible to behold it without thinking how many infatuated beings had perished in its vicinity, self-immolated to appease the imaginary wrath of its Idol.

When we had reached the Balasoa Roads, a pilot came on board, and brought a bad account

of Calcutta, as far as regarded the health of its inhabitants. The cholera, he said, was raging to a fearful extent, and the most violent sickness prevailed, — the season having been more unhealthy than had been known for many years. This was but a dispiriting announcement to new comers, and threw a gloom over the prospect of our arrival. The approach to Calcutta is extremely beautiful; on each bank of the rapid Hooghly is a richly wooded country, thickly studded with handsome buildings; amongst which "Bishop's College" is very remarkable. Garden Reach offers some most interesting views, and beyond it we beheld the really elegant city of palaces. A number of native boats joined us at a considerable distance below the town, as it is customary to take Lascars on board to assist in the difficult navigation of the river; but these people, strange as they are, cannot be compared with those who had greeted our approach to Madras; on the contrary, we derived much amusement from watching them cook and eat their curry and rice, which they were compelled to do in little boats at the stern of the vessel. After they had devoured a very large

quantity of food, they dipped their "lotas," or drinking vessels, into the turbid stream, and washed it down with copious draughts.

On the 14th we were in Saugur Roads, where we saw the wrecks of several vessels; those of the "Duke of York" East Indiaman, the "Lord Amherst," and the "Industry," were the most conspicuous, and served as beacons to others. On that day, about midnight, a terrible gale sprung up, and lightning, thunder, and rain, accompanied by a very high wind, alarmed us in no small degree: fortunately, however, no serious accident happened; but when the anchor was weighed on the following morning, the arms snapped off. On Sunday we passed Diamond Harbour, and on Monday morning received a severe concussion by the vessel running on the sands, where it stuck for awhile. We were, however, released from this predicament when the tide rose and carried us off; and by one o'clock on that day we had the happiness of feeling that our voyage had terminated. We anchored off Calcutta on the 16th of September, after having been nineteen weeks on board. I had never felt tired of the ship, nor even for

one moment had time hung heavily on my hands; and on taking a last look at my cabin, I felt regret at quitting the little home in which I had passed so many happy hours. Would that my voyage home had proved as propitious as this first had done; but many events conspired to render it in all respects very much the reverse.

CHAPTER III.

CALCUTTA.

Description of Calcutta. — A Ball at Government House. — Great Variety of Costumes. — English Ladies in Calcutta. — Effects of the Climate. — Defective Educations of most Anglo-Indian Ladies. — Fort William. — Immense Number of Crows. — Their Voracity. — The Adjutant Bird. — Jackals. — Cathedral. — Public Establishments. — Schools. — Museum. — Library of the Asiatic Society. — Ghâts. — The Course. — Fashionable Drive. — Description of the Calcutta Houses — their internal Arrangement and Furniture. — Annoyance from Insects. — Hookahs. — First Importation of Ice. — The Governor General's Country House at Barrackpore. — Serampore, a Danish Settlement. — Chandernagore, a French Settlement. — Numerous dead Bodies of Hindoos thrown into the Sacred River. — Ball at Government House in Honour of the King's Birthday. — Nautch at Chandernagore. — Nautch Girls. — Native Music. — Style of the Entertainment given by the rich Natives. — Preparations for the March. — Number of Servants requisite.

WHAT an extraordinary place is Calcutta! one cannot comprehend it for awhile; and the

stranger feels bewildered amidst such a variety of attractions as meet the eye. Its mansions deserve the name of palaces, and its Government House is superb. This latter, however, always struck me as standing upon too low a level, but its plan and arrangement are perfect.

We were quickly established in Spence's Hotel, where we found admirable accommodations, and whence we could visit all that we were desirous of seeing.

The city of Calcutta has been so often and so ably described, that no additional remarks are called for; but events concerning travellers are ever varying, and I shall try to depict some of the most amusing which fell under my own observation.

A ball was given at the Government House, a few weeks after our arrival in Calcutta, which we attended, and where we had the first opportunity of viewing an Eastern fête. Lord William Bentinck was at that time Governor-General; and though he had not the reputation of leaving India with the blessings of its European or native inhabitants upon his head, yet

to the casual visiter he had the art of making himself very accessible.

Upwards of 1600 persons were present at the fête, but its magnificence consisted chiefly in the handsome arrangement of the spacious apartments. The band of the King's 49th regiment, and that of the Governor-General, played alternately, and the dancing was kept up with sufficient spirit. But what amused us much was the extreme variety of costume that presented itself; a fancy ball could scarcely have offered greater.

On one hand was the Chinese gentleman, whose dress, be it acknowledged, was as ugly in the eyes of an European as could well be imagined. His smooth round face and long plaited hair, however, sufficiently denoted the nation whence he derived his origin. There were also the "vakeels," or envoys from the various Rajpoots, who were most interestingly conspicuous; and we were much struck with the splendour of some of their dresses. Amongst them the vakeels of Oude and of Sinde were the most remarkable; they were literally laden with precious stones of almost incalculable value, their

turbans consisted of scarcely any other substance, and their vests presented a continuous sheet of gems; their capacious trowsers were made from the rich kincob of Benares, but beneath them we beheld their naked ankles and feet thrust into the most richly adorned slippers. One of the Mysore Princes was there; but they are not frequently seen at public or private entertainments, and bear, we were told, but very indifferent characters. The Nawab of Mysore, as he is called, is perhaps one of the best; but these sons of the mighty Tippoo have fallen from their high estate.

About 1400 persons sat down to supper; but the immense number of servants who were in attendance (although on this occasion they were limited to those belonging to Government House, for, if I mistake not, all private ones were forbidden the *entrée*,) must have swelled the number of individuals in those spacious rooms to nearer 3000 than 2000, including the native guard, bands, officers, and aides-de-camp in attendance. A few couples stood up to waltz; but what was the consequence?—a dense ring was formed round them, and the greatest

anxiety was evinced to behold the unusual sight; some ladies even went so far as to mount upon chairs and ottomans; and I was induced to believe that the staid and moral society of Calcutta were seldom led into the perpetration of that indiscreet dance. Having but lately left England, where it had become a favourite with the votaries of Terpsichore, I never for a moment imagined that its exhibition would excite any sensation in the crowded saloons of the East; but the number of gazers soon astonished me, and I was glad to escape from the magic circle.

I subsequently saw the waltz very freely indulged in in the upper provinces, where it seemed as much in vogue as in England; why, therefore, it appeared such a novelty at the Presidency, I cannot imagine.

The ladies, like those at Madras, struck me as wearing most lugubrious countenances; and two classes only boasted a shade of love's rosy hue, viz. those who had very newly arrived, with health still sparkling in their eyes and blooming on their cheeks, and those who had been constrained to seek a renewal of youth's tinge from

Delcroix's depôt or similar emporiums. Their style of dress was generally expensive, but in bad taste; and their languid and indifferent manner forcibly impressed one with the idea of debility and bad health. There are many peculiarities which mark the Anglo-Indian ladies. Their steps in promenading, even the ball-room, are uncertain and irregular, notwithstanding that they almost invariably rest upon the arms of two gentlemen: when you advance towards them in a morning visit of ceremony, they rarely rise from the sofa or easy chair on which they recline, until you are quite close to them, and never advance a single step to give cordiality to the reception; whilst their languid motion to the servant who has ushered in the visiter, and the half uttered, "Sahib," or "Mem Sahib ke chuokee do*," as the case may be, precedes the most local and trifling conversation that can be imagined. I do not assert that all are thus inert; a few I have seen, who retain something of the vivacity of an intelligent Englishwoman; but such are indeed rare, and

* "Give the gentleman, or lady, a chair."

the generality of females in India talk of little beyond the last new style of dress, their children, or their Ayahs.

"Only imagine," I once heard a lady exclaim to her friend, "Mrs. C. was here this morning, and had actually a broad satin riband in her bonnet, *with* or *without* an edge," as the circumstance happened; for I was too much amused with the remark to think of the actual importance of the subject.

On another day, I was asked "if I did not admire the *lovely* collar which Miss —— had worn over her riding habit on the previous evening at the band; indeed, it was the *fifth* or *sixth* collar which she had exhibited since her arrival from England, *and they were all of quite different patterns.*"

The lady of the East lounges idly in the corner of her carriage, or, with her feet upon the indispensable "morah," almost lies down in her husband's *buggy* (as that conveyance is invariably called), whilst her children are sent to take the air in vehicles of various descriptions, from the Palkie carriage drawn by two enormously fat bullocks, to the ton-jon, the palan-

quin, or the pony, but attended on all occasions by twice as many servants as there are children.

Of course, much arises from the relaxing nature of the climate; but more, I apprehend, from the indifferent educations which are bestowed upon young ladies who are sent to India at an early age, or who, born there, are committed to the care of some distant relative in England, in order to undergo a few short years of academical restraint, and acquire a few showy accomplishments and a superficial knowledge of some of the arts and sciences.

Books of all descriptions are plentiful enough in Calcutta, and in the upper provinces all the military stations are extremely well supplied with book clubs and regimental libraries: in some of the out-stations, it is true, there may be a scarcity; but the resident civilians generally take care to surround themselves with every thing which can conduce to their comfort, and it must be acknowledged that a well stocked book-case is not the least requisite.

On our first arrival in India, the mosquitos were most annoying; my feet, ankles, and hands, were in such a dreadful state of irritation as

to throw me into a fever; added to them, were the innumerable cockroaches which filled our sleeping as well as our bathing apartments. It may appear ridiculous, but after sunset I really dared not move about the rooms either with or without a light; for their hard wings were perpetually striking upon the matting of the floors, and they seemed to follow me wherever I went. During the whole of my residence in India, I never met with so many cockroaches again; and I attribute their superabundance on this occasion, to the temporary disuse in which the bath room may have remained; as, on its being first used, these to me horrible creatures issued forth *en masse* from the spout whence the water was to escape, and in an instant the floor and every article in the room was literally covered with them. On the following morning I took the precaution to desire the bhestie to discharge one entire skin of water into the aperture, when they immediately made a rush to get out, but in vain; and I had the cruel satisfaction of seeing them driven down by the flood, and half a hundred crows at the outside, busy eating them up as fast as they could pick them out of the water.

On our removal to Fort William, I had some rest; but even there they were a source of frequent disquietude, and I never entirely overcame my abhorrence of them. The hawks in the fort were very amusing; we frequently held a piece of bread or meat upon the point of a fork from the window, and in an instant several hawks would sweep down, and one would invariably carry off the prize. The crows, too, are innumerable all over India, and most impudent; they have grey heads and necks, and are much smaller and more insignificant in appearance than the handsome black bird which we are accustomed to call by that name in England. The crow of India attacks every helpless creature, living or dead; I have seen one take a piece of cake from the hands of a child of four or five years of age, heedless of the little creature's cries. One morning, several of our party were seated in a verandah at Cawnpore, taking our early coffee, when, having placed mine upon the footstool on which my feet rested, an impudent crow actually perched for a moment on the footstool, and bore away a biscuit from the saucer. They are a terrible annoyance to poor galled bullocks, and fre-

quently tear their flesh most cruelly; in fact, if there be truth in the Hindoo creed of transmigration of souls, those of departed thieves must certainly find their next sojourn in the bodies of the Indian crows.

The "hurgila," or what is commonly known by the name of "Adjutant bird," stalks about the quadrangles and ramparts of the fort; and, except at certain seasons of the year, is to be seen in considerable numbers. Nothing is too hard or scarcely too large for its maw; and I have seen one in the act of gorging a dead cat of no very trifling dimensions. Once, indeed, I was attracted to the window by a more than usual clamour; when I discovered an unfortunate "adjutant" surrounded by a cloud of crows, who were menacing him and screaming in a terrific manner. On inquiry, I found that the transgressor had swallowed an invalid or disabled crow; for which offence the whole fraternity were thus showing their displeasure. After the rainy season, these birds disappear to build their nests in marshes and jungles; a few of the aged and infirm only remain, and continue to act as scavengers until the return of hot

weather brings back their companions. From the nature of its food the "adjutant" is found principally in the neighbourhood of cities and large military cantonments; and in consequence of his usefulness, is protected from injury by very strict laws. The beautiful feathers known in England by the name "Commercally," are taken from this bird, and grow under the strong feathers of the tail; but the appearance of this huge and rather disgusting animal gives no assurance of any thing being detached from its body of so delicate and elegant a texture.

Next in interest to the innumerable birds in and around Fort William, are the jackals: these creatures are a great source of annoyance all over India, and towards nightfall invariably commence horrible cries; but in the fort they are, perhaps, more numerous than any where else, and their dreadful clamour is beyond conception appalling. There, too, they show more boldness, since their number causes them to be in greater need of food; and they frequently make their way into the barrack rooms, and even private apartments, carrying off whatever they may meet with. Kids, or even the small Bengalee goat,

sheep, and occasionally dogs, fall an easy prey to them; but I never heard of their carrying off an infant sleeping on its mother's arm, as is but too frequently done by the wolf in the bazaars and native villages on the banks of the Ganges, during the dry season.

On our return from the upper provinces to Calcutta, a jackal entered our boat, and completely ransacked the centre apartment, of every thing which could be devoured; to effect which, it had to make its way over several sleeping servants, who were totally unconscious of the intrusion. A basin containing food for an infant had been placed on the table, and this he very wisely drank; but in his eagerness some of it had been overturned; and it was owing to the foot prints, which were left by his treading in the milk, that we discovered what kind of a visiter we had had.

The fort church is rather a handsome building externally, but I never entered it, as, during our sojourn in Calcutta, it was undergoing repair. We attended divine service at the Cathedral several times, and heard the present Bishop preach: I had often listened to his sermons in

London with great admiration, but must acknowledge that my early impressions were not revived on these occasions.

The Cathedral is undoubtedly a handsome building, but not particularly striking; and its interior is light and pretty, rather than ecclesiastical in style and arrangement: this may be owing to its innumerable punkahs with their snowy fringes, and the general whiteness of its adornments.

There are many public establishments in Calcutta and its environs of considerable interest: of these the Upper and Lower Kidderpore Schools, used chiefly for the orphan children of officers and soldiers; the free schools, in which are educated, fed, and clothed, upwards of three hundred children of both sexes; the native female school, instituted by the indefatigable Mrs. Wilson; and those established by the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, — are amongst the first: but added to these are the Bishop's College, founded by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, which is a handsome edifice; the Botanical Garden, most interestingly and beautifully situated at Garden Reach, and

containing very rare specimens from every quarter of the globe; and the excellent museum and valuable library belonging to the Asiatic Society, which most richly deserve the attention of the lovers of Oriental literature.

The principal Ghât at Calcutta is very striking, and generally crowded with natives, either bathing in the river or busily engaged in traffic; whilst innumerable ships lie in the basin directly opposite the city, and form an interesting view from Fort William and the public drive. The Course, which is the Mall of the capital of Bengal, is filled with carriages and equestrians for two or three hours after sunset, and is graced by a tolerable sprinkling before his rise; but the European residents in Calcutta are apparently not so attached to early rising as those of drier districts, and I have heard many of the former remark that the morning air in Calcutta is too humid at most seasons of the year to be beneficial. In the evenings, however, every one turns out; but what a dreary business it is, few can conceive. Speaking from recollection, I should think that the Course is about a mile in length; but there is likewise a pretty drive near

the glacis, and towards Chowringhee, the principal abode of the English gentry. For the space of perhaps a quarter of an hour, there is light sufficient to discern the faces of your acquaintances; but beyond that time all is in obscurity, and you may pass your nearest relative unrecognised. In fact, during by far the greater part of the year, the society of Calcutta literally drive out after nightfall, meeting the air (if there be a zephyr) at a moderate pace; but on the return, flying before it as rapidly as their horses and the crowd of carriages will allow.

This violent style of driving has been productive of many serious accidents, and caused the death of a lady just after our arrival in the country: but experience, that universal instructor, has failed of convincing the Calcutta gentry of their error; and when I left India, four years afterwards, they were whirling along the crowded Course at the same intemperate pace. What adds much to the danger of this style, is, that the native coachmen are not generally clever drivers, although many of them equal our Jehus at home; besides, there is such a multiplicity of vehicles of every de-

scription, that it is impossible to calculate with security upon the movements of them all. The best carriages are very superior to what they were a few years since, a considerable number having been brought from England; the horses, too, receive more attention, and are of a much improved breed.

The stranger feels surprised, on first visiting the Course, to see so many ladies in evening costume, even in gigs or open carriages; but this is easily accounted for by the intense sultriness of the weather, and the lateness of the hour at which they are compelled to commence their drives, — most of them returning home to dine at eight o'clock, before which hour they seldom quit the Course.

The houses in Calcutta, when lighted for the evening meal, present a very striking appearance: the rooms are always extremely large, and lofty in proportion; their numerous doors are all open, or covered only with thin wire gauze, or light bamboo screens, to keep out intruding birds or flies, admitting light and air from the surrounding apartments. The walls are generally white, to which are attached

brackets to support wall-shades, in which the finest cocoa-nut oil is consumed, and which are in such abundance as to emit a perfect blaze of light. The floors are covered with fine Calcutta matting, which, though at first unpleasant to the tread, after a short time becomes agreeably luxurious. The drawing-rooms and libraries are very handsomely furnished, but to a stranger appear somewhat empty; this, however, is a defect of which he soon finds reason to approve. The large verandahs which surround the upper as well as lower stories, afford an agreeable lounge, when the external air is more endurable than the artificial breath of the punkah; whilst the variety and number of servants give an air of state and dignity to the mansion, which we scarcely expect to find in the residence of a commoner.

Some of the servants, it must be admitted, are deficient in the clothing which would be indispensable in our colder clime; for, whilst the upper ones are very carefully and even gaudily clad, we are not a little surprised to see an almost naked "punkah wallah" rise from slumbering on the verandah, when his services

are required, and address himself to his duty with only a thin white muslin scarf cast across his dark-coloured body. These men are always Hindoos, and are generally entertained as palkie-bearers as well as punkah wallahs, in numbers of from eight to twelve, with a "Sirdar," or head bearer, who holds complete authority over them.

On entering the dining-room, one is struck with the load of viands which crowd the table, over which a huge punkah noiselessly waves to and fro. Until the family approach, its motion is scarcely perceptible; but no sooner is any one within its influence, than it is pulled in a more energetic manner; and an immense relief is felt after the fatigue of walking from another apartment, and being for a few moments without this important requisite. Behind each chair, stands a whiskered, moustached, and turbaned domestic, with his arms closely folded across his bosom, or opened only to adjust the chair most conveniently as his master or mistress becomes seated, and to arrange a napkin, which he then places in the hands or upon the knee. A foot-

stool is before each chair, and is an indispensable comfort to the Anglo-Indian....

The lamp or candle shades upon the table are all provided with perforated covers, to protect them from the effects of the punkah; and over each wine-glass or tumbler (of which there are generally several to each person) are silver covers, as a precaution against flies and insects. I have seen a table covered with little brown grasshoppers, or perhaps with what more closely resembled crickets, to such an extent, that, being unaccustomed to the sight, it was difficult to touch any thing, as the plate was immediately invaded by them, and their motions were far too quick to be calculated upon. Occasionally, the fire-fly will cause some alarm to the stranger, when its bright glow is discovered amidst the folds of a delicate white muslin garment; but at the season when the white ants take wing, and are attracted by the lights, nothing can be more annoying than their intrusion. The flying bugs, too, are objects of abhorrence, both within doors and in the open air: their odour is most noxious; and if accidentally crushed in a handkerchief, or any article of

dress, the scent can scarcely be got rid of. In driving, they are very apt to settle in the hair; than which few things can be more intolerable.

At Indian dinners, each person eats from a hot water plate; and the old Indian is always to be seen enjoying his curry and rice, which are invariably brought in at the end of the first course: to this he makes a point of helping himself,—the rice being taken to him first, and the curry afterwards; these being properly piled upon his plate, he adds a sufficiency of the hottest "Chutna," "Lucknow pickle," or almost equally celebrated "Tapp sauce," and then falls to in very good earnest with his spoon and fork. Cheese is sometimes a rare article, and is frequently (as in many parts of Europe) served with the fruit, although removed before it; it is generally enveloped in part of a plantain leaf, but is seldom of good quality, as the best cheeses will not bear the voyage to India. The latter part of the dinner often presents a great medley; and, even in the best-arranged houses, I could never make out what were really intended to keep each other company,—as sweets, savouries, fruits, and cheese, were sometimes

intermingled and crowded together pell-mell. This is probably owing to the little interest which ladies in India take in household concerns; every thing is left to the "Khansaman," who places what is customary upon the table, and of which he never fails to procure a superabundance; any innovation, therefore, on the part of a lady, who might wish to introduce a more modern or English style, would excite the greatest astonishment; consequently, in this, as in things more relating to their own circumstances, the native servants are permitted to go on in the way they were taught by their forefathers.

The English lady is surprised to see so much beer consumed by females in India; but I have been told that such is more commonly the case up the country than in Calcutta; and some residents in the latter place remark, that a "Mufussilite" is known by a partiality for this beverage: however this may be, it is quite allowable and usual for a gentleman to request the "pleasure of taking beer or wine with a lady," which would certainly have a droll effect in England.

I have heard of a lady in Calcutta, who used to *restrict* herself to a dozen bottles of Allsop's or Basse's ale *per diem;* but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this statement, being totally unacquainted with the person in question: I was, however, very much astonished to see four, five, or six glasses of light but exhilarating Champagne quietly disposed of, in addition to other wines, by some ladies, at dinners or ball suppers; and I fear it is too true that many of them seek by such means to remove the extreme depression of spirits and lassitude which are superinduced by the climate.

Towards the termination of dinner, the Hookah makes its appearance, and attracts the attention of the stranger by the bubbling noise which the air creates in passing through the water.

The "Hookah badah" has the entire care of this luxury, and generally takes great pride in having it in high perfection. If the "chillum" be good, its aromatic perfume is extremely agreeable: in England, it would be overpowering; but through the large rooms of India, its fragrance is wafted by the punkah, and it was ever most acceptable to my olfactory nerves. I

do not think, however, that it improves the conversational powers of the gentlemen, as they soon become absorbed in its enjoyment, although many of them are ready to declare that they can neither read, write, nor exist without it: that they imagine so, I doubt not; but the true Oriental is too often seen reclining upon a sofa, or in an easy chair with his feet on a footstool, his eyes half closed, and his intellect half awake, conversing in a languid strain, or turning over the leaves of a novel, until the "chillum" is exhausted, the hookah snake indolently laid aside to be carried away by the attendant "Hookah badah," and a comfortable slumber succeeds to the soothing occupation. It is not only an accompaniment to the dinner table; a person really addicted to it, commences and closes the day with it; after his bath, his breakfast, his tiffin, and his dinner, it is indispensable to his comfort.

Some of the Rajas and wealthy natives possess a great variety of hookahs, and have a different equipage introduced, instead of allowing the part only which contains the chillum to be changed, and which is required to be renewed

about every quarter of an hour. Many of the hookahs are extremely valuable; the mouth piece, suppoose, and often the stand, being composed of silver or gold, and inlaid with precious stones, or exquisitely enamelled. The snakes, too, admit of a great variety of ornaments, and the Indian takes great delight in seeing them differ from each other in hues and adornments. The hookah stands upon a carpet, which is often made from the skin of the tiger or leopard, but more frequently of cloth richly embroidered in coloured silks, gold, and silver. I have heard of a few European ladies who indulge in the hookah, but never saw it done; although there is an elegant little apparatus, called I believe the "Paget," which is peculiarly adapted to their use. The native women, on the other hand, smoke incessantly, are quite as much addicted to it as the men, and are more indolent in their manners and way of life.

We chanced to arrive in India almost simultaneously with one of the first importations of ice from America; it was most amusing to see the anxiety with which it was sought after. The deposits were only opened for a short time

before sunrise, when crowds of coolies were in attendance to carry off the portions required by their employers: these portions were immediately enveloped in thick blankets and enclosed in baskets, which were carried off with all speed; but a very considerable quantity invariably dissolved before they could reach their respective destinations.

I watched two or three Ayahs crowding round a basket which had just arrived: they were all eager to touch the novelty; but immediately on feeling its extreme coldness, ran away exclaiming that it was "burra gurrum," — very hot. A child, too, cried violently, and told his mamma that "the English *glass* had burnt his fingers."

I was not a little surprised, too, on several occasions, to see the ice brought to table as the greatest possible luxury, and handed round for persons to mix with their wine; which, although cooled with saltpetre and Glauber salts, had not attained a much lower temperature than that of new milk. The ice in question was brought out as a means of preserving a large quantity of American apples in good condition for the Calcutta market, when the ice unexpectedly

proved a more lucrative species of merchandise than the fruit.

We lingered at Calcutta as long as we could, but were at length obliged to change our abode for a very short residence at Chinsurah, where the King's regiment to which my husband belonged was stationed, though under orders to march to Ghazeepore. This destination was, however, subsequently altered, and we accompanied it to Cawnpore at the end of the year. Having occasion to make one or two trips between the Presidency and Chinsurah, we had opportunities of seeing the intervening country both by land and water. Barrackpore, the country seat of the Governor-General, is very striking, both as seen from the Hooghly, and also when its park and mansion receive a closer scrutiny. What adds much to its beauty, are the detached residences which are contained in the domain; all are exquisitely placed, and the visiter is at a loss to say which possesses the most pleasing view, or the greatest advantages of situation. The park itself contains some remarkably fine timber; and if we had not discovered the truly Oriental banyan, and the

elegant bamboo, or caught a distant view of the mighty elephant on which Lady William Bentinck was taking the morning air, we might have imagined ourselves in one of the most interesting of our English nobleman's parks.

A little below Barrackpore, on the opposite bank of the river, is the pretty and very clean town of Serampore. It is a Danish station, but contains very few troops, all of which I believe are Sepoys, although officered by Danes; and has a resident governor.

There are several handsome mosques on the banks of the river, and two or three particularly substantial Ghâts; consequently, upon the whole, the sail is extremely interesting; but I think, if a comparison be made, I should prefer the land journey, as the road is in most parts exquisitely beautiful, and richly wooded with those trees which are quite novel to the eyes of the European. Of these, the tamarind deserves particular notice, and resembles much the elegant acacia; thick clusters of bamboo are to be seen on all sides; and the cocoa palm towers high in the air, bearing its hearse-like leaves. The fruit of this tree was in perfection at this time, and we

occasionally delayed for a few minutes to have a nut opened and to drink its contents. This I found particularly agreeable, and very different to any which I had tasted in England: we have it only from the ripe nut in the latter country; but in India it is gathered much fresher, and the liquid is almost as clear as water.

We crossed the Hooghly at Puta Ghât, and presently reached Chandernagore, a French military station, which is likewise situated upon the banks of the river, and is between two and three miles below Chinsurah.

The great drawback to this part of Bengal is its extensive paddy fields, which are alike devoid of beauty and unhealthy; as the constant exhalations arising from such a large surface of irrigated land must necessarily add humidity to the naturally damp atmosphere of Bengal.

On one occasion, we made an excursion to Calcutta, for the purpose of attending a large and very crowded ball at Government House, in honour of King William the Fourth's birthday. We drove to Puta Ghât, where we left our horse to be taken back to Chinsurah; and having crossed the river, expected to find an-

other awaiting our arrival at Cock's bungalow; but some forgetfulness or mistake of the orders which had been sent had occurred, and no horse whatever was to be procured. This was a serious disappointment, and we were much at a loss to know in what manner to proceed. A land journey being thus rendered impracticable, we turned our thoughts to the river; but not a boat of any reasonable dimensions could be had, and we were compelled to hire a Panchway, or covered boat of a very inferior description: upon it the buggy was placed with considerable difficulty, and we then proceeded to creep in ourselves, — being carried, as usual, in the arms of two poor natives. This part of the ceremony I always made an effort to avoid: but had I stepped in or out of the boat on this occasion, I must inevitably have fallen on the slimy bank of the river. Within a few yards of the landing, I beheld a miserable creature who had been carried there to wear out the short remainder of her days near the Holy Stream, into which she would be consigned as soon as her last breath should be drawn. A pile of wood and a few leaves were already scraped together to

form a funeral pile, as it was intended that the body should be first partially or entirely consumed, as the case might happen. The poor woman appeared middle-aged, and to be dying of famine; but we were told by the bystanders, that her relatives would give her food if she would take it,—which, however, she refused to do: her arms and legs were literally wasted to the bone; and had not some one remained constantly with her, she must quickly have fallen a prey to jackals and vultures, instead of becoming food for the fish in the river.

Having lain down in the Panchway (for it contained no benches), we proceeded on our way to Calcutta; but the tide was against us, and our voyage very tedious. Here, again, we witnessed the effects of the Hindoo manner of disposing of their dead. A body floated past, to which our attention was at first drawn by the sight of a vulture standing upon some floating substance in the river: on examination, we found that it had fixed its talons in the naked body of some poor Hindoo, and was tearing the flesh off with its beak; a flight of carrion birds were screaming and flying around it, each one ready

to dart down and carry away a part of the mangled prey.

Similar sights are very frequent on the river, and render the passage extremely disagreeable; when walking, too, on its banks, one is very apt to stumble upon human skeletons; and I have seen so great a number of skulls on lands which are at certain periods of the year under water, that they appeared to have been scattered there for the purpose of enriching the ground.

Two young officers, who were on their way up the river to Cawnpore, when we were there, had nearly lost their lives from the consequences of a very unpardonable curiosity.

The account received by ourselves was this:— They had discovered the dead body of a Hindoo floating near their boat, on an occasion when the "Dandies," or boat's crew, were at their dinners, and had foolishly been tempted to occupy a weary hour in hauling it into the boat, and in dissecting it. No sooner did the crew, who were all Hindoos, discover the profanation, than they attacked the Englishmen very violently, and by their cries and imprecations brought a strong body of natives from a neighbouring

village to their assistance, who were quite ready to enforce instant compliance with their demand, that the body should be restored to the water; in fact, the young men were glad enough to comply with the very moderate requisition, and were thankful to escape the punishment which their thoughtless violation of religious prejudice but too richly merited.

We reached Calcutta after a row of about four hours, and were heartily glad to rise from our recumbent positions; but the landing was no such easy matter, as we were taken to a Ghât so crowded with country boats, whose owners were occupied in lading or unlading their merchandise, that it was with the utmost difficulty we could advance to the bank. The screaming and yelling almost equalled the tumult at Madras, and the buggy was nearly thrown off the boat several times. In the midst of the confusion, I discovered a dozen or two natives washing themselves with the greatest composure amongst the boats; and so close were some of them to ours, that I more than once thought we must inevitably go over them. Many of the women had loosed their long hair, which floated on the

surface of the water; but they took not the least notice of the noise and bustle around them, and appeared to enjoy their baths extremely.

This time I escaped being carried in the uncovered arms of heated natives, as a palanquin was brought close to the Panchway, into which I gladly scrambled. Fortunately both ourselves and the buggy escaped the dangers of the landing, although the latter had a violent jerk from the boat to the ground, which must have tried its springs pretty well.

Having accomplished various purchases in anticipation of our expected march up the country, we went to a friend's house in Chowringhee, where we were engaged to pass the period of our stay in Calcutta, and in the evening accompanied a large party from thence to the ball, and found the spacious halls of Government House already filled with guests. Several Arabs immediately attracted my attention amongst the foreigners, as by their jet black eyes and beards and noble expression of countenance they were particularly distinguished. As this ball was given on a patriotic occasion, all persons who were in any way connected with

the Company's service were admitted, and the medley was somewhat amusing.

We remained two days with our kind acquaintances at Calcutta, and then returned to Chinsurah without further accident or inconvenience.

Nov. 14. — A few evenings since we went to a Nautch at the house of a wealthy "Baboo," at Chandernagore. To ourselves, the scene was novel and amusing; but there is so much monotony in these entertainments, that one does not feel much inclination to attend them frequently.

With some difficulty we made our way, through a dense crowd of natives, into a large apartment, the centre of which was reserved for the singers and dancers.

Two females were performing when we entered, and we were requested to be seated. Immediately afterwards, our host, as a token of welcome, presented us with bouquets of orange flowers from a golden basin which was carried in the arms of a negro, black as jet, and very richly dressed; another servant followed with attar of roses, which he rather sparingly dispensed upon our handkerchiefs, although he

took care that each guest should have a little. The dancing girls were enveloped in red gauze scarfs embroidered with gold, and wore very full and long white trowsers; their voices, which were moderately harmonious, kept a monotonous time and tune with three odd-looking instruments composed of the skins of enormous gourds, which might be said to resemble the guitar as much as the violin; there was also a kind of drum beaten at one end with the fingers or palms of the hands. The men who performed upon them stood close behind the dancers, and regarded them with great attention, as if ready by the music to give effect to their words and gestures. Whilst singing and dancing, the Nautch girls seemed to be occupied in adjusting their attire, in folding it across the bosom, or in concealing, uncovering, and again partially and coquettishly concealing their faces: their motions were of a shuffling kind, and very far from graceful; occasionally they contrived to show their feet, which, as well as their ears, noses, fingers, and arms, were laden with ornaments: upon the whole, as far as regarded them, I could discover nothing to admire, and was extremely

glad when we advanced into an inner room in which were two hideous idols receiving the adoration of the heathenish multitude. One represented Vishnu, the other I understood our host to say was Doorga. Two or three Bramins officiated before the altar, which was raised upon a kind of platform, and received the offerings of the piously disposed, who, on ascending the steps which led to the images, prostrated themselves before them, touched the ground with their foreheads, and saluted the floor with their lips. Having accomplished this, they rose, and in the act of so doing received a consecrated garland, which was thrown over their necks by one of the priests; the offering was then made, and is appropriated by the Bramins, who in return are bound to pray to the deities in behalf of their votaries.

When the long feast of the Doorga Pooja is over, the God and Goddess, tinsel and glittering ornaments accompanying them, will be consigned to the Holy Stream, — a few precious stones alone are to be extracted by the Bramins, who receive them as a pious offering from the proprietor of the frightful images. We were

told that the shrine and idols we saw were valued at about 1000 rupees, or 100*l.*; but the whole presented much more of gaudy adornment than of real beauty.

Our host was magnificently dressed, and wore round his neck three or four strings of the largest and finest pearls I ever saw; he introduced two of his children to us,—a son and a daughter,—who were both gaudily clad; and he told me that his eldest daughter was married a year since, and is now in her thirteenth year. We left the "Baboo's" at ten o'clock; but understood that the fête, which had already occupied many nights, would be continued until sunrise for several succeeding ones. In fact, during the whole of this, and several other Hindoo as well as Mussulmaun festivals, a constant clamour is kept up.

Notwithstanding the little variety which is to be met with at these native entertainments, we were induced to attend another, at the house of a rich merchant in Chinsurah. There was more attention paid to the comfort of the guests on this than on the former occasion, as a native guard was in attendance, and our ingress and

egress were in consequence more easily effected. We were ushered into a large room, on the floor of which was a rich Brussels carpet; this apartment was lighted by five extremely handsome chandeliers, the centre one of which alone cost 1200 rupees, and the others, I think, 1000 rupees the pair. Sofas were placed along the walls, and immediately opposite the entrance was the shrine of the God who was blessed with 118 names, but with how many attributes I know not. In this case I saw no figure; baskets of flowers, garlands, and fruit seemed to constitute the mystery of this "Mahadeo*," and these were attended upon by a number of Bramins, whose shaven heads gave them the appearance of monks.

Each native, on entering, walked up to the shrine, before addressing himself to any one, presented his offering, and made his obeisance. Our host told us, that the God of his idolatry is composed of gold, silver, brass, and iron; that such is the case, I am not disposed to

* This term seems to be applied to the most sacred of the Hindoo divinities, or "the God of Gods."

doubt, since his whole life has been occupied in the accumulation of wealth. The ceiling of the room was adorned with flowers hung on wires, in imitation of sun flowers, white swans, crocodiles, and nondescript animals without number. Offerings of attar and bouquets were not omitted, and the dancing and singing soon commenced. One Nautch girl was extremely pretty, and attracted great attention; their movements were, however, as inelegant as those of the others, whom we had seen on former occasions. At the termination of each performance they received a parcel of betel, folded in gold or silver paper, as a token of dismissal.

Our entertainer could not converse much in English, but his nephew, who was a very handsome and intelligent young man, spoke the language very well.

He told me that his wife, who was then in her twelfth year, was looking at us through the Venetian blinds, which screened the women's apartment, and which entirely surrounded the upper part of the room in which we were seated.

We were not disposed to remain very long, as the heat was intense, and the strong scent of

attar and orange flowers extremely overpowering.

On the following morning the nephew made his appearance at the head of three servants, each of whom carried a round gilt dish covered with fringed mats; these contained raisins, almonds, and sugar-candy, sent as an offering from his uncle.

He also came to entreat that we would let them hear of our welfare, when we should have reached Ghazeepore, which we expressed our willingness to do.

On the evening of the 26th of November we went to an exhibition of fireworks at Bandal: they were supplied by a devout Roman Catholic, in honour of her patron saint, and were very beautiful and varied in design. Many of them were Chinese, but the greater part had been manufactured in Chinsurah. I thought them superior to any which I had seen at Vauxhall; but as during our residence in India we saw many which far excelled them, I shall refrain from describing any of them in particular. The crowd of natives was as usual immense; but invited guests were allowed to enter the

convent walls, and ascend to the top of the house; whence we had a superb view of the river, the illuminations, and (what was equally interesting when seen from a little distance) of the myriads of human beings who were congregated together.

We now began to prepare in good earnest for our march; tents, baggage, elephants, hackeries, palkies, and palkie bearers, bangy wallahs, and et ceteras *ad infinitum*, were in requisition. We parted with a beautiful little high-spirited horse, which I had had much pleasure in riding, as I found the march upon horseback would be impracticable for me. Of all the ladies belonging to the regiment, I alone purposed going by land. Our tents were purchased: a comfortable little "Churchouba" and a large single-poled tent were sufficient for us: the former was to be sent on at nights, and to be ready pitched for our reception the next morning, in order that we might have breakfast immediately on our arrival at the encamping ground; the latter was to be struck as soon as we could get out of it in the mornings, and to follow with the baggage of the regiment: this,

in tolerable weather, might be expected to reach its destination within an hour or two of ourselves.

For the carriage of these tents we required three strong hackeries or bullock waggons, of a very rough and uncouth description; but, besides them, we engaged two or three bangy wallahs, who could each carry two moderate-sized boxes or parcels fastened at the ends of bamboes, and slung across their shoulders, eight bearers for the palanquin, two Khitmatgars, either of whom could officiate as cook, a "Mysalchee," "Dhobie," "Bhestie," Serdar bearer, sweeper, two "Classies" or tent pitchers, a Syce and a grass cutter, a very active Irish woman as my own servant, and a soldier who had leave from duty to give us his services; these I think composed the whole of our establishment.

Our heavy baggage, such as tables, chairs, couches, sea-chests, &c., were to be sent by water, for which purpose we required a 500 maund boat, and with them we sent stores of wines, beer, and groceries. This boat was placed under the charge of peons, and insured.

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We were amused by the tractability and obedience to orders, evinced by the elephants which were to be employed in carrying the tents and baggage of the soldiers: when we met them, the mahouts of several ordered them to make their salaams, which they did by throwing their trunks above their heads; and when the word was again given, they all marched off in regular order, to deposit their loads in the barrack yard. These burdens consisted of young branches of trees, which they had fetched from a distance for their evening's repast.

Tents for officers and men had arrived; innumerable hackeries were in attendance, and every thing bespoke a general movement.

CHAPTER IV.

The Regiment commences its March. — Its first Halt. — Numerical Strength of the Column, including Servants and Camp Followers. — Abundant Supplies of Provisions. — Daily Bazaars. — Necessity of speaking the Native Languages. — Crossing a Nullah by a Bridge of Boats. — Petty Disasters. — Elephants on a Suspension Bridge — their Fears. — Plassey, the Site of Lord Clive's Victory. — Berhampore, its native Burying Ground. — Barrachs. — Curious Adventure at the House of a Commissariat Officer. — Moorshedabad. — New Palace for the Rajah. — A new Way to pay old Debts. — Heavy Rains. — Bad State of the Roads. — Beauty of the Trees and Scenery. — Arrival of the Regiment at the Banks of the Ganges. — Rajamahal, Ruins of the Palace. — March through the Jungle. — The celebrated Pass of Terriagully. — Romantic Rocks in the Ganges near Colgong.

On the 1st of December the regiment was to commence its march; accordingly, on the previous night, our breakfast tent was despatched, and at four A. M. we left Chinsurah. The morning was beautiful; we had a splendid moon, which gave place at seven o'clock to a

splendid sunrise over the Hooghly, along the banks of which our route lay.

There is a remarkably pretty turn in the river about a mile from Chinsurah, to which we had driven almost every evening, and of which I was particularly fond; here, then, I must stop once more, and I made my bearers set down my palanquin, and allow me to take a last look at my favourite view.

Our first day's march, which was to a place called Bans Bareah, was not accomplished without some difficulty: some bangy wallahs, who had undertaken to carry a very portable bed, were discontented, and declared themselves overladen; the serdar, therefore, had to make a different arrangement for them, or they would undoubtedly have set down their burden and decamped. Many others, likewise, were making complaints, and we had much difficulty in keeping our train in order.

My husband being obliged to keep with the troops, I had this anxiety upon my own hands, and my total ignorance of the language at that time added considerably to my distress. When I reached the encamping ground, I beheld a

busy scene; the regiment was in line, the elephants all assembled, hackeries arranged for inspection, with their attendant hackery wallahs and bullocks; a large space was covered with tents ready pitched, and a magnificent grove of mango trees filled up the back-ground of the picture. We had not much satisfaction, however, in viewing our own establishment: the tent, it is true, was pitched, but no appearance of breakfast was there, and the man who had undertaken the charge of the fowls had let them all at liberty, by throwing their bamboo abode violently on the ground: with some trouble a number of them were recaptured, but several were irrecoverably lost, and flew off to the neighbouring jungle.

Towards evening we walked to a Ghât at a short distance from the encamping ground, whence the view was beautiful; the tints of the declining sun were rich beyond what can be seen in England. An island lay before us in the river, and bore a good crop of indigo, and within a short distance from where we stood was the small but keen fire which was consuming the body of a Hindoo.

The strength of our camp was calculated to be nearly as follows; — about six hundred soldiers, (the sick, with the women and children having been sent by water,) forty elephants, about four hundred officers' servants, to which may be added upwards of two thousand camp followers; I do not recollect hearing how many hackeries, but they were very numerous. No sooner did the regiment reach the encamping ground each day, than a temporary bazaar, or native market, was established: some of the suttlers continued with the regiment during the whole march, carrying with them whatever could produce a profit from being dealt out by retail, or providing themselves from the villages near which the route lay, and thus renewing their supplies for the next morning's market.

At some places the villagers would bring fruit, vegetables, eggs, &c., and the meat was provided by the commissariat; upon the whole, no one had any reason to find fault with the fare which was to be obtained. We had provided ourselves with an excellent little Bengalee goat, which continued to give us milk during the whole march; and we had not failed to take plenty of

biscuits, butter, sundry rounds of Hunter's beef, tongues, humps, a small cask of pickled herrings, sardines, sauces, rice, and flour. These of course swelled our baggage very considerably; besides, as there was no mess established by the officers, we were obliged to carry with us our wine and beer. Some boxes were exclusively appropriated to the package of plates, dishes, breakfast equipage, knives, forks, cruet stands, and the endless paraphernalia of daily requisites, in fact, to look back and think of what we were compelled to carry is terrific; but the accomplishment of it was comparatively easy, and the habit was soon formed of finding its own place for every thing. The servants, too, who are accustomed to marching, if tolerably attentive, will soon relieve the unpractised traveller of all trouble; but the misfortune is, that "Griffs," or new comers, are always suspicious of the people who are around them,—and in truth not without much reason, for they are generally pillaged without mercy during the first few months of their residence in the country; they are kept in a constant state of annoyance, unable to act

for themselves, and fearful of being acted for, so that their safest, and in fact only reasonable, plan is to make themselves acquainted with the language as fast as possible. The Company's officers are compelled to do this; but the greatest portion of those in the Queen's regiments refuse to take the least trouble about it, rather pride themselves upon only knowing a few offensive epithets, and go on beating and abusing their unfortunate domestics as long as they can persuade them to remain in their service. This treatment is sure to meet with its reward, as none but bad servants will remain to be constantly maltreated, and they invariably return such uncourteous behaviour with cheating, lying, and plundering. An ignorance, too, of the language necessarily entails many misconceptions, —for the Indian servants always pretend to understand an order rather than incur the danger of irritating their masters by numerous questions, and consequently, in nine cases out of ten, do just what they were told not to do; at this even a kind master will become incensed occasionally, and the heat of the climate is but too likely to add to this ebullition of temper.

Many ludicrous scenes took place in camp, which had sprung from these causes, and not a little inconvenience was felt by the persons concerned.

Of course we were obliged to take cooking utensils, chairs, tables, candlesticks, a few books, and a very sufficient supply of clothing, as the nights continued very cold, whilst the middle of the days were becoming extremely hot.

From Bans Bareah we marched to Insurah, and there halted for two days, in order to afford the whole marching train a very seasonable rest; and on the morning of the fourth we advanced to Mirzapore, a distance of fifteen miles.

On this occasion we had to set out rather earlier than usual, and the first bugle sounded at a quarter before two. On leaving my tent, I was delighted with the scene that presented itself: there was no moon, and the night was as dark as pitch; but not so the encamping ground, for the men had kindled fires over its whole extent, by setting fire to the straw which had been served out to them for bedding; the natives likewise had scraped together leaves and sticks,

and were sitting in groups, with their toes and fingers as close to the flames as they could possibly hold them; the soldiers were waiting until the last bugle should sound to call them to their ranks, and stood leaning upon their muskets, watching the progress of the blaze, or helping to kindle it. The drummer was a conspicuous figure, and had seated himself upon the edge of his big drum; the officers' tents were being struck, and, being half up and half down, looked like ruined buildings; the elephants, already laden with the men's tents, were seen slowly and majestically moving through the gloom; a few "doolies*" were *en route*, and bangy wallahs and coolies were seen for a moment, and then lost in the thick darkness. Our late Colonel's well-filled meat-safe passed in review before me, and my own bearers sat round a very good fire, looking like so many huge monkeys; nor were

* The "doolie" is a common description of palanquin, used for the sick or over fatigued, and belonged in this case to the hospital establishment. In one of these my female servant obtained leave to be carried, and generally reached the ground sooner than I did, which was convenient enough.

they by any means disposed to move, as they were enjoying their hubble-bubbles, and cared for nothing beyond them.

Whilst lamps were being lighted for my palkie, I took a rough sketch of the scene around, but can never forget how much it delighted me.

On that day we had a very fatiguing march; the road was truly horrible; and though I had added two to the number of my palanquin bearers, it was not without some difficulty that they brought me to the end of my journey. My husband being on the sick report, from the effects of sleeping for a short time with the sun only partially shaded from his head, was able to accompany me. Near Mirzapore was a small nullah, which we had to cross by means of a bridge of boats; we had been walking for some distance, and had been fortunate enough to receive the offer of an empty bungalow, which belonged to an indigo planter in the neighbourhood, in lieu of our own tent, which was not pitched; from this bungalow we commanded an excellent view of the river on the banks of which it stood, as well as of the

nullah, which emptied its turbid waters into the mighty Hooghly.

The passage of the regiment across the nullah was an interesting sight. Groups of villagers had collected on its opposite bank, enveloped to the eyes in their winter clothing; the hackeries had crowded together, whilst the elephants were lying down to be relieved of their burdens;—some of them were in the water, the tips of their trunks being alone visible, and their drivers standing upon their backs more than half immersed, balancing themselves, and urging the animals forward with their long iron spikes. On emerging from the water, black and dripping with moisture, the elephants again lay down to be reladen; the baggage having been carried along the frail bridge upon hackeries. All was tumult and confusion, when, in the midst of it, the regiment appeared winding down the steep bank of the ravine, with band playing, and all in apparent haste to reach the encampment; but this was not so easy, as many of the men were obliged to assist before their tents could again be in progress, and all were anxious that a halt should be announced for

the following day. Such, however, was not the case.

Having watched this busy scene from the verandah of our temporary habitation, we were called upon to contemplate one which more concerned ourselves on the opposite side. We had despatched some coolies from Insurah, (for we had lost our bangy wallahs,) with boxes containing various articles of consumption. What was our surprise to see one of the boxes brought in completely shattered, every breakable article it contained being; demolished and as each succeeding piece met our view, great and lamentable were the exclamations which ensued. All the servants were standing round,—some discovering one breakage, some another; the Irishwoman was calling all the Saints to witness how beautifully she had packed every thing the evening before; a Khitmatgar was carefully disengaging a tin canister of Hunter's beef, which had lost its liquid, to the great detriment of sundry books, which had improvidently been placed in the same box; the tea-pot appeared minus a handle, the coffee apparatus was pressed flat; plates, dishes, cruets, total wrecks of their former

selves; part of a pine cheese came rolling forth, and a handful of silver forks and spoons lay scattered in every direction.

It appeared that a coolie had slipped and let fall his burden; that, afraid of censure, he had made off, and certainly never again showed his face to us; that one of our inferior servants following in his train, had seen and recognised his master's property, but not daring to touch what were either edibles or mediums for the same, he stood over the wreck until a Company's officer, who was commanding a Sepoy guard with the regiment, came up. To him he explained the difficulty under which he laboured, and testified his knowledge of the box by declaring the number of pieces of silver which ought to be in it; this proved correct, and the officer recommended him to pack up the broken fragments, and to proceed as well as he could. He was attempting to explain all this, and used much gesticulation, but all to no purpose,—we could not make out a word he said; then in order to show us how he had found every thing, he seized the forks and spoons, and threw them in every direction. This so incensed us, that

my husband, (who thought it was done as an insult, as he was aware a man of his class ought not to touch such articles,) immediately rewarded the action with a tolerably sound kick; upon which the man joined his hands, and stood in humble posture, as if convinced that the punishment was only what he merited. The officer, however, who had witnessed the former part of the transaction, rode up at this crisis, and explained the mystery; whereupon the abused sweeper received what he much less expected, and what far more than compensated for the insult, a rupee! Be it remarked, that this man subsequently proved himself very much the reverse of an honest man, and attempted to rob us on more than one occasion.

During the whole of this scene, our Dhobie, who had commenced his ironing work for the day, very composedly continued his occupation, paying not the least attention to what passed so near him; but, with his bundle by his side, and a cloth spread upon the verandah, made the best use of his time; thinking, no doubt, wise man as he was, that all the turmoil concerned him not.

On that day I met with the first centipede

which had crossed my path in India; it had been disturbed by our having taken possession of the bungalow, which had evidently not been inhabited very lately. It was about five inches long, and was making its way across the room in which I sat, when I discovered it. Upon giving the alarm, a number of servants ran in to my assistance, and soon destroyed the dangerous reptile. I subsequently met with two or three centipedes during the hot season, and always found the servants much afraid of them, as their venomous bite is considered very dangerous. I never, however, saw any evil done by them; but in this I was fortunate.

I omitted to mention, in its proper place, the passage of a new suspension bridge, which caused some anxiety to many on the march. It was near Bans Bareah, and had only very recently been opened for use; — when we arrived there, the regiment passed safely enough, but some of the elephants, feeling their foothold insecure, entirely forgot their usually admirable discipline, and no sooner had three or four of the foremost set foot upon the unsteady bridge, than back they scrambled, throwing all the rest into con-

fusion: fortunately they waited to be unladen, but were evidently much disturbed; and the moment they found themselves at liberty, hastily plunged into the water to swim or wade across the stream. On our return from the upper provinces, a few years afterwards, we visited the site of this bridge, and found that it had been destroyed, and washed away by the current; at least, we imagined such to have been the case, from the state in which we discovered its remains.

Yesterday, one of the elephants became very much irritated, because a loaded hackery occupied the path which he wished to make his own; not choosing to turn aside for so inferior a substance, he seized the hackery with his trunk, and quietly overturned it with the bullocks, driver, and baggage, down the banks of a precipice forty feet high; one of the bullocks was killed, and the unfortunate driver much injured; but the majestic animal passed quietly on his way. On another occasion a soldier was marching behind one elephant and before another, when the latter, finding his steps somewhat impeded thereby, very quietly wound his trunk round

the man and placed him towards the side of the road, not a little to the astonishment of the soldier, who would probably take care not to put himself in the way on any future occasion. I very often feared lest one of them should take umbrage at my palanquin, for the bearers seemed particularly fond of getting into the midst of these animals; and my incessant cry was, "Khuburdar hat, hee." *

We left Mirzapore on the morning of the 5th, for Soolhoot, to which place we had a pleasant march; the morning was beautiful, and our camp very agreeably fixed. An enormous banyan tree stood immediately behind our tent, but the bazaar was unfortunately established within a very short distance on the opposite side.

There happened to be a great abundance of monkeys in a neighbouring tope, which a few young officers amused themselves in shooting at, and wantonly killed or wounded several; the cries of the poor animals were piteous; and I believe even those who were guilty of this useless

* "Take care of the elephant."

slaughter felt somewhat ashamed of having perpetrated it.

On the following morning, we set out at a quarter before three for Auger Deep; but this day's march proved most fatiguing, as the road was execrable, and a heavy shower drenched all who were exposed to its violence. When I reached the banks of the Boggaretti, I beheld a scene of the greatest possible confusion. Only nine boats had been provided for the passage of 600 soldiers, and 2400 camp followers, with the requisite elephants and hackeries. After waiting a length of time, my palanquin and myself were deposited in a crowded boat, and I reached the opposite side, but found every thing there in a most comfortless state. Only one of the hackeries which we had sent on the night before had been allowed to pass, and it contained the outer walls only of our breakfast tent, but neither a chair nor a table. Even this had been pitched upwards of half a mile from the encampment; consequently we could not apply to friends in our need. In due time, however, some of our servants contrived to make a fire, and to serve up a grilled fowl, and a few

et ceteras. Some acquaintances, who chanced, to be in a worse plight than ourselves even, came to partake of our shelter; and amongst us we could muster a few forks, but not a single knife, and only one plate; — saucers, however, we had, and could use them as substitutes: we had also a beef steak added to our fare; but how was it to be torn in pieces? we sat down on the setringee of the tent, and attacked it as well as we could.

Let it not be thought that our appetites were more than reasonably keen; we had been in the open air from a quarter before three, and our dinner, for this was only our breakfast, was not in progress until six o'clock on that evening. My husband came in about two o'clock P. M., for his duty had been to superintend the unlading and relading of the elephants; the heat of the mid-day sun had been intense; and in consequence of the heavy rain of the early part of the morning, had been very trying. After breakfast, I crept into my palanquin, to enjoy a little repose; and whilst there, a visiter was announced, who was on his way down the river, and who, seeing the encampment on its banks,

had come to see one whom he had known in England. He found us in a most comfortless condition. Upon the whole, though I had been a good deal amused as well as disconcerted with the ludicrous and annoying scenes of the day, towards evening I became very unwell, and was compelled to call in the advice of a medical attendant.

Auger Deep is very prettily situated upon the banks of the Bagaretti; but by some mistake our camp was pitched on the grounds of an indigo planter, to whose property the damage done was very considerable.

Our next march conducted us to Plassey, where we arrived about an hour after sunrise: two of my bearers, having received a month's wages in advance, had decamped during the previous night; consequently my progress was somewhat delayed. Plassey derives a certain degree of historical interest, from having been the site, or nearly so, of one of Lord Clive's very important victories*; the plain itself on

* Lord Clive and Admiral Watson, in 1757, by a gallant and decisive action, here regained possession of Calcutta.

which the battle was fought is now entirely under water.

Monday, December 9. *Burroah.* — This morning I had a cheerful march of only eleven miles, on a very good road, and having ten bearers, they ran over the ground very quickly. Burroah is situated upon a vast plain; near it are several large tanks, and, at a short distance, lies a very important manufactory of silks, but too far off for us to visit.

Nothing could exceed the thick and yellow fog which greeted our arrival at Berhampore; London itself, in the month of November, can have nothing to compare to it; but scarcely had the sun risen than it cleared off, and the day became more than ordinarily hot. We were encamped close to a very extensive burying ground — enclosed, as is usual in India, within very high walls, and quite filled with monuments, some of which were chaste and elegant in design. I passed an hour in wandering amongst them, and contemplating their touching inscriptions — by far the greater number were raised in memory of the young.

The barracks at Berhampore are spacious,

and rather handsome; they are, however, of a very heavy style of architecture, and the station has not of late years been occupied by European regiments, on account of the extreme unhealthiness and dampness of the situation. Here we wished to supply ourselves with several fresh palanquin bearers, for these people were constantly causing us much annoyance, either by decamping entirely, or becoming useless from sickness. On this occasion two of them had fallen so foot-sore, that we were compelled to let them have rest from their labours, and these poor fellows had been, in fact, the most effective men in the set.

Unfortunately, my husband was detained on a court-martial until late in the day, consequently, we were unable to apply to the commissariat officer until evening; and when we had, by dint of many inquiries, discovered his abode, we were informed that he was not at home. Being, however, very much in need of his assistance, we entered the house, in order to leave a note for him on his return. Two servants waited upon us, and, as we supposed, understood not a word of English; they placed

chairs, procured writing materials, and were as polite as Indian servants usually are. Having assured us that their master would be home at night, and would, they had not the least doubt, attend to our request, they placed themselves behind our chairs to await our further wishes.

A few lines were now to be written, and being in great haste, a consultation ensued; such as, "How shall we make him attend most readily?" "Perhaps he wo'n't give himself any trouble about us." "I will say, they are for a lady who cannot proceed without them." "Surely he will have too much politeness to neglect the request altogether;" and many similar remarks. During this time the men stood by looking perfectly unmoved, and when the note was finished, one of them received it, promising to give it to his master, and they then accompanied us to the door. We waited anxiously for bearers that evening, for I had only five left who could undertake their accustomed labour, but none appeared; at length, the last bugle sounded, and I began to imagine that I must remain on the ground. On previous occasions, we had derived assistance from

supernumerary hospital bearers, but on the present, all were either occupied or completely unable to work; at length, my dilemma reached the ears of the officer, at that time second in command, who instantly despatched two of his own bearers to my assistance, and thus enabled me to proceed.

What was our astonishment, a day or two afterwards, on hearing the whole account of our visit to the commissariat officer, related with so many additions, and so highly caricatured, that we scarcely recognised our own pictures! Being accustomed to indulge frequently in the garb of a native, it appeared that Mr. —— had been met by us in that attire; that finding us unable to express ourselves with facility in Hindustanee, he had concluded that we were strangers to the country, and had therefore an inclination to derive a little amusement from our perplexity. I have every reason to believe that the person who had brought the writing materials, and stood behind my chair, afterwards receiving the note, was the gentleman in question. After our departure he went to dine at a friend's house, where he met with a lady and her hus-

band, who was at the time interpreter to the regiment, and before them he recounted, with variations and improvements, the circumstances of our visit. That he might do all this was perhaps not very surprising; but there was certainly a degree of rudeness, as well as deficiency of politeness, in the entire neglect he showed to the application.

Berhampore is a great mart for gentlemen's pocket handkerchiefs, and a kind of silk which is much used in making rissais, or coverlets. These things are to be purchased at a very moderate price; but as is the case throughout India, the merchants invariably demand three or four times as much as they intend to take.

From Berhampore we had a very tedious march of what was noted down at twelve miles, but which, through ignorance of the road, and the want of a guide, was made into eighteen. As far as I could judge in the twilight, the country about Berhampore is very interesting, but became dull as we approached Bomineah, where we were to have halted, but which we passed through, and did not discover our encampment until we had gone two miles beyond.

Our route on this day led us through Moorshedabad, at which place the company is building a magnificent palace.

We were told in 1837, that the sum of fourteen lacs of rupees is owed to the Rajah of Moorshedabad, but that in lieu of paying him the money, the policy of the government is to expend it upon the building which is now in progress, but which the Rajah does not appreciate, as it neither suits his inclination nor the Eastern taste. He declares, moreover, that he will never enter its walls, and is erecting another to vie with it in beauty, and to exceed it in what are considered requisites in the East; viz. jets-d'eau, women's apartments, &c. &c. One cannot certainly wonder that the man should prefer having the disposal of his own money. A Hindu college is likewise established at this place, but we had not an opportunity of visiting it.

December 12. We set out at four o'clock for Dewanke Serai, and passed some pretty scenery, but had scarcely pitched our tents before the most tremendous fall of rain commenced; it was with the utmost difficulty that

our servants contrived to keep our setringees dry, by digging a trench round the tent, and raising a mound of earth between the interior and exterior walls. By these means we were preserved in tolerable comfort. Our servants crowded into the Charchouba, or with the horse, goat, and fowls, into the Paul tent: upon the whole, though the rain continued to fall without intermission until the evening, we were no great sufferers. Not so, however, many of the soldiers: some of their tents were completely soaked and inundated, and several poor fellows got into hospital in consequence; one man especially lost the entire use of his limbs, which he never again recovered, and has in consequence been sent to England, discharged as an incurable. How the servants contrived to cook our dinners on that day has always been a matter of surprise to me; but however much at a loss they may be for expedients at other times, they always deem it possible to prepare this meal. We could not allow them to enter our entrenchments, as they were compelled to

* Tent carpets.

wade up to the knees in wet mud; their ample "paejamus" were rolled high upon their thighs, and as they ran with the covered dishes from their little mud fireplaces, over which a man held a bamboo umbrella, we stood at the door of our tent to receive what they had provided.

Much to our amusement, our Hindoo bearers came to beg a little brandy, notwithstanding their religion forbids them the use of ardent spirits; we readily supplied them with sufficient to make themselves very comfortable, and offered some likewise to the Musselmanns. These, too, did not scruple to receive it, although several of them assured us, that they should only make use of it externally, to preserve their legs and bodies from cold; unless Sahib really thought that they ought to take it medicinally. One only amongst the whole set of domestics resisted the temptation, and during the years he remained in our service, we had every reason to believe that his honesty equalled his temperance.

They would not, it is true, receive it from any vessel which we had used, but they would have it poured from the bottle into their drinking or other vessels, though even this scrupulosity

would occasionally be set aside; and I once saw a Hindoo of high caste retire behind a screen to drink some brandy and laudanum which I had recommended to him under a slight attack of cholera. On asking him why, if he had dared to drink it at all, he had not dared to take it openly; he replied, because he should have lost caste amongst his fellow-servants had any of them observed him in the act of drinking from the glass which we had ourselves used.

Notwithstanding the tents were so saturated with moisture, that their weight was more than doubled, we were doomed to move on again on the following morning. The roads were almost impassable, and when we reached Khamrah scarcely any hackeries had arrived; we however met with kind friends, who afforded us shelter, and an excellent breakfast, most acceptable requisites after a long march. Khamrah possesses no particular beauties, and we proceeded from thence to Sooty on the morning of the 14th, where we once more crossed the Bagaretti, but with much more comfort than we had done at Auger Deep.

The following day being Sunday, we enjoyed

the luxury of that repose, which was so much needed by the whole marching train; the poor bullocks especially deserved some rest, and many of them were beginning to show symptoms of utter uselessness.

Sooty is situated upon the junction of the Bagaretti and the Burra Gunga, and is remarkable only as a mart for bamboos, which are particularly worthy of note for their size and strength here, and are frequently taken in as cargo on board the boats which are in progress to Calcutta.

December 16. *Downapore.* — This morning we left Sooty in total darkness. The roads were extremely bad, on account of the late rains, and to add to my own troubles, I again lost two bearers; they started with me, but deserted me on the road. After sunrise, however, I was amply requited for the slight disquietudes of the outset, as the country became extremely pretty, and we walked for a considerable distance. As we approached Downapore, several parts of the road reminded us of Bolton woods, Mackershaw, and many parts of England; but here we had a far greater variety of trees and flower-

ing shrubs; the mango trees abound where-ever we go, and in form somewhat resemble the oak; the elegant acacia covers the wide plains, either in light clusters or in hedge-rows, the thorny species bearing a sweet and strongly odoriferous flower, and the larger kind over-topping all the forest trees. The bamboo, the plantain, the toddy palm, the palmyrah, and the banyan, form a variety of tint and outline, which cannot be met with in England. Beautiful parasitic plants cover the hedges and huts of the native villages; one large flower, which we gathered of this nature, measured nearly nine inches in the diameter of the calix.

On our road we met with a considerable number of hill men, or "Paharrees," a set of people totally distinct from any which we had hitherto seen. Their complexions were lighter, and their aspects more resembled those of the Chinese than the Bengalees. Those whom we met carried staffs, and wore shoes and caps like pilgrims, but the formidable weapons they bore in their girdles greatly destroyed the idea of their being such peaceful travellers; their manner too, though not disrespectful, was un-

marked by the observance of that salaam which a Bengalee would not have omitted.

The Calcutta Annual Register for 1821 gives a full and particular account of these very interesting people; and as I had no opportunity of learning much which regarded them, save from books, I refrain from giving an account which could only bear the appearance of a quotation.

Arrived at our encamping ground on the banks of the sacred stream, what a scene presented itself! wide as an inland sea, so wide, that we could only discern a streak of land on the distant horizon, and smooth as glass, it formed a strange contrast to the busy scene on shore. Thousands, I may safely say, of the black natives were seated in groups, preparing and eating their dinners, their fires made on the ground in little mounds of mud, whilst hackeries, elephants, camels, bullocks, tents, horses, and tattoos, to say nothing of the soldiers and officers of the regiment completely covered the open space near the river. The boats of the ladies, and the fleet belonging to the regiment, were below us, all lagoo'd on the

banks of the Ganges; most of the ladies were in camp; in fact every body was alive, and all were enjoying the beauty and variety of the picture.

On approaching Phool Kepoor we gained a view of the distant Rajh Mahal hills, the first elevation which had greeted our eyes in Bengal; here we halted for a day, having undergone a very fatiguing march of fifteen miles over an exceedingly bad road from Downapoor, and found great reason to rejoice that such had been the arrangement, as a heavy fall of rain attended by much thunder would have rendered our advance almost impracticable. A beautiful day fortunately succeeded to the storm, and was well employed by the servants in drying and re-arranging our soaked baggage.

On Thursday, the 19th of December, we reached Raja Mahal, and immediately clambered to the ruins of Sultan Sujah's palace; it is beautifully situated on a projection in the river, round which the torrent is extremely rapid. Though dated only from the early part of the 17th century, it is a complete ruin, without any of the antique appearance of our ancient

buildings. It has still, however, association to recommend it, and a palace built by the brother of the Emperor Aurenzebe must not pass unremarked. Its "sung dalun," marble hall, still retains traces of great beauty; its stone roof is beautifully chiselled, and the arches and pillars of black slate which form one side of it are peculiarly elegant.

A mosque which is attached is very pretty, and a number of inscriptions from the Koran are still quite perfect. The palace has evidently occupied a very considerable extent of ground, as many shattered portals and demolished and fallen pillars denote its boundaries; the marble hall is now used as a deposit for coal, and it was not without much difficulty that we could sufficiently inspect its adornments. There is a ruinous serai close adjoining the palace, which still boasts of two very handsome gateways; and though it was quite filled with fine young Arabian horses on the day we were there, which were on their way to the Calcutta market, it does not at present afford much shelter either for the animals or their wandering conductors.

We gained a splendid view of the Rajh Mahal

hills from the palace, and lingered amongst its ruins as long as we were able.

Friday, 20th. We had a dreadful march; the heavy rains which had so lately fallen had rendered the road, which must at all times be very bad, nearly impassable.

We went through thick jungle, in which we were told are the wild elephant, the tiger, and the rhinoceros. I must acknowledge that I felt somewhat nervous when I found that my twelve bearers could not keep up with the regiment, and when I conceived the possibility of our path being crossed by some of those savage animals of the jungle. We constantly discovered the tracks of wild animals, and one officer belonging to the regiment, of very portly dimensions and corresponding weight, was actually abandoned by the men who bore his palkie, and left totally helpless on the road; and this because they heard or fancied they heard, the dreaded howl of a tiger: he had no plan left but to place himself on the first hackery in which he could find space, or upon a baggage elephant,—I really have forgotten which,—and to send for his deserted palanquin as he best

could. Notwithstanding similar alarms, I could not help admiring many parts of the country through which our road lay, as when the thick jungle opened for a short space the distant prospect was rich and varied in the extreme.

I did not reach the encampment at Sicligully until mid-day, where we found ourselves again on the banks of the Ganges, and on a very pretty spot. On one side of us were the distant Rajh Mahal, and on the other a rocky eminence, at the summit of which is the tomb of a Mussleman Fakir, who was equally signalised for his self-inflictions, his horrid cruelties, and his valour; of which Bishop Heber gives so interesting an account. We made our way up a very narrow path to the top of the hill, but when there we were disappointed at finding but few of the beauties which the Bishop describes; and moreover the apartment which contains the tomb is so much the reverse of cleanly, that it must now be deserted by its guardian angel in the tiger's form. The view from the eminence, comprehending the Ganges and distant hills, is extremely fine.

Whilst enjoying this prospect, we caught a

sight of a noble steam-vessel, with a pinnace in tow, cutting its rapid way against the stream. The pinnace was for the use of the late Commander-in-chief, Sir Edward Barnes, who was at that time on his route from Cawnpore to Calcutta and to England.

On the 21st we marched to Sacree Gullah, a distance of ten miles; the day was beautiful, and a cheering sunshine made every one active and busy. The soldiers collected in crowds in the river to wash their clothes, and the mahouts were equally actively employed in performing the same important office for their elephants; but this was not to be done without some trouble, and many a loud burst of merriment from the soldiers proclaimed the frequent discomfiture of the unfortunate natives, as the animals would lie on their sides quietly enough for awhile, but suddenly becoming impatient would roll over, or rise with a tremendous roar, and shake the whole tribe of scrubbers into the water.

Here we halted until Monday morning, when we reached Gungerpersand, a distance of only nine miles. This place possessed only one in-

teresting feature, which was, the extraordinary number of alligators which crowded the small jeel in its vicinity, and which emptied itself into the Ganges. Many were the shots fired at them on that evening, but to no purpose; if hit by a ball they only dived for a moment, and immediately returned to gaze at the assailants.

The villagers told us that these animals seldom commit any ravages on shore, although they constantly assemble on the banks of the jeel to bask in the mid-day sun; they have been known, they acknowledged, to carry away young children, but in general their depredations are confined to the capture of kids, and similar small game. Most of them appeared to be from fifteen to twenty feet long, and one huge fellow whom we caught napping amongst the bushes, rolled and tumbled into the water in a most undignified and inelegant manner.

On the next morning we had to surmount the celebrated pass of Terriagully, by which we left Bengal, and advanced into the province of Bahar. The pass is fine, and very precipitous in some places, but not nearly so difficult of

ascent as we had been led to expect, although the roads were the whole way in the most dreadful state. Near the top of the pass lies a cannon, which is held sacred by the inhabitants of India, both far and near; all our servants stopped when they came up to it, and made the most profound salaams, crying out, as is usual with the Hindoos, "Ram, ram." They affirm that the united strength of five elephants has proved insufficient to move it. Placed as it is upon the spot which denotes that their arduous toil is surmounted, it seems a kind of "Rest, and be thankful," and I could not help regarding it as such.

Nothing could be more annoying than the thumps which my palanquin received on this route, as the bearers constantly lost their footing and fell to the ground, thereby causing me a violent jerk each time.

After this, the most arduous of all our marches, we reached an open plain covered with long grass, amongst which were a few mud cottages; the plain was bounded by hills of no beauty. Numbers of hackeries were broken down on the road, and their contents scattered

in the mire; many were overturned, and the bullocks so completely knocked up as to be unable to assist in restoring them to their equilibrium; every face wore the most wo ful aspect, and the losses of that day's march were not trifling, but we had the consolation of knowing that the worst was over. I witnessed the opening of an officer's box of crockery: not an article remained whole; plates, dishes, cups and saucers, every thing was totally destroyed. At first he was disposed to be very angry, but his natural kindness of feeling prevailed, and he was not unwilling to acknowledge that it was perhaps fortunate that the loss had fallen upon a field officer, and not upon one of those who would have been less able to incur the expense of a refit.

Indeed it was to him that we were on that morning indebted for shelter and a breakfast, without which I know not what would have become of us, as I was most thoroughly fatigued, and had arrived several hours before even the foremost of our hackeries came up, and when they did arrive we could not unpack them, as it was then time for them to start afresh. The

unfortunate bullocks were quite knocked up, and could not possibly have gone on; but we were able to obtain others, and therefore hastened the departure of ours, in order that it might be in readiness for us at Colgong the next morning. Many hackeries did not arrive until late that night, and several of the officers were glad to obtain even a little dry straw upon which to stretch their weary limbs.

Christmas-day. Colgong. — We had another most irksome march, but had the prospect of a halt the next day. No one who has not traversed these roads can imagine them, cut up as they were by the passage of upwards of three hundred bullock hackeries, besides elephants, and a numerous body of troops and crowds of camp followers. "The Buffs," too, had only preceded us by a few weeks or days, and had thus rendered them worse than ordinary.

My bearers were sometimes knee-deep in the mud; and the four men who were carrying the palkie were obliged to receive support from others, who gave them all the assistance in their power. Sometimes I was half disposed to mount a baggage elephant, but, after all, I had

the best of it, and heartily rejoiced that I had not attempted the march either in a carriage or on horseback.

Arrived near Colgong we had some extremely pretty scenery. The Rajh Mahals were again distinctly visible, and the horizon was bounded by the distant Churruckpore hills.

Near Colgong are some very romantically situated rocks in the centre of the river, rendering the passage for boats extremely dangerous, but forming a beautiful sketch from the shore. We walked towards them on the evening of the 26th, and some of the officers rowed to them in the hopes of finding game. Nothing, however, but pigeons were there, but they were in great abundance. Nearly opposite to them, on the banks, are some tombs interestingly situated. They are all raised to the memory of Europeans, whose deaths have occurred on the voyage to or from Calcutta, in search of health, either at the Hyma 'yah, or in a voyage to their native land — sought, alas! too late.

December 27. The regiment marched at a quarter before three to Gograh Nullah. On the preceding night we had watched a brilliant

sunset, accompanied by the rising of the full-moon, and had congratulated ourselves upon the prospect of a march by moonlight on the following morning. What then was our surprise on leaving our tents, to find a brilliantly star-lit night, but no moon in a cloudless sky! I lay in my palanquin pondering upon so strange a circumstance, and wondering what phenomenon had snatched her so suddenly from the sky, when, lo! a streak of light at length appeared, and the mystery was unfolded by the discovery of a total lunar eclipse.

We had then a view of this celestial phenomenon, in the most beautiful manner, and pursued our course under a lovely moon.

We reached our encamping ground just as the sun rose, and had the dissatisfaction to find that scarcely a tent was pitched. Our thermometer stood this day, at six o'clock A. M., at 44°, and at noon at 62°.

CHAPTER V.

Bauglepore.— Musslemaun Tomb.—Sultan-gunge. — The Holy Mount Mandar. — The Sacred Well at Seeta-coome.—Monghyr; salubrity of its Climate. — Kindness of an English Missionary and his Family—Conversions among the Hindoos. — Hybut Gunge, Mangoe Groves, and Cotton Plantations.—H. M. 38th and 16th Regiments meet on the March.— Futwah. — The 16th meet H. M. 44th, and exchange Camels, Tents, &c. — The Golah.

DECEMBER 28. On approaching Bauglepore, we could not fail to remark how considerably the native inhabitants differed from those which we had been in the habit of seeing.

Here they are much fairer, more intelligent, livelier, and higher in stature; their dress, too, has a far more cheerful appearance, as they are mostly clad in wrappers of the gayest colours; in Bengal, the lowest orders of people match the ground in the tints of their clothing, and in the colour of their persons, whereas here, they delight to sport a bright red shawl, and yellow

turban, or a rose pink scarf thrown over a white garment, with a little gaudy skull cap, stuck at the side of the head, amongst a profusion of black curly hair; and this style, it must be acknowledged, contrasts well with the swarthy complexions and dark sparkling eyes of the native peasantry. Crowds of these people ran from the adjoining villages as the regiment advanced, and perched themselves upon the walls which bounded the road in some parts, or crouched upon the ground; there was, however, no jostling, no quarrelling for the best station, but each one found a place for himself, and, wrapped in his "chuddur," quietly sat until the strangers had passed by.

In the course of the day on which we halted at Bauglepore, we received numerous visits from silk and linen vendors; an immense quantity of the former article being manufactured there. The silk of Bauglepore is a particularly agreeable wear in summer for gentlemen's jackets or trowsers, children's apparel, &c., and is purchased upon the spot at a very moderate price.

In the neighbourhood of this town are some

very good residences; the gaol is very large, and many of the natives' houses are remarkable for the elaborate carving in wood, and fanciful plaster work, with which their doorways and cornices are adorned. The town is situated upon a Nullah, and is nearly three miles from the Ganges when the river is low; although, on account of the extreme levelness of the land for several miles above and below Bauglepore, the water, during the rainy season, inundates a very considerable track on each of its banks.

An intimation here reached us that the destination of the regiment is changed from Ghazeepore to Cawnpore; this has caused general regret, as the former is considered a more healthy station than the latter, besides being much nearer; we can now scarcely expect to be in quarters before the end of February.

Sunday, December 29. Halted at Bauglepore, and in the evening we strolled in the neighbourhood of the encampment and admired the country extremely. From an eminence we obtained a fine view of an extensive and richly wooded plain, which brought to my recollection

that which is to be enjoyed from the summit of the round tower at Windsor; and, could we but have obtained a view of the neighbouring Ganges, this fair plain would have rivalled in beauty and luxury that garden of England.

We looked into the tomb of a Musslemaun; it had been newly erected, and as yet untouched by the periodical rains was as white as snow. The tomb chamber was not more than fourteen feet square; in the centre was a small sarcophagus, near which stood an elegantly carved pillar in which was a recess where a lamp was burning; at the foot of the tomb sat a bearded "Moolah," or priest, whose eyes seemed riveted upon the Koran, which rested between his knees; a small door led to this chamber on one side, and an open brick-work window at each end admitted the air. I was warned not to enter the tomb, and consequently refrained; but I suspect, that had I done so, the priest would have offered no objection, although on the following day we witnessed the strong dislike which some of the Musslemauns feel to a stranger entering their cottages; as, on the east intimation of a nearer approach, we were

earnestly requested to desist, and to remove from the vicinity of the huts. Not complying immediately, the natives ran out in formidable numbers, as if intent upon preventing any further intrusion on our parts; indeed, their arguments became so cogent, that I should have been extremely sorry to advance another step.

December 30. Marched to Sultun-gunge, a distance of fourteen miles, and were encamped in a thick mango-tope or grove. The next morning we advanced to Maha-dewah, whence we had a fine view of the Curruckpore range, and the Holy Mount Mandar, to which crowds of Hindoos annually perform an arduous pilgrimage; this mount forms a conspicuous object, and is composed of hard granite, a circumstance of no common occurrence in this part of India.

When near Maha-dewah, we gained a distant view of the fort at Monghyr; but, unfortunately our route did not lie nearer than three miles from that ancient city. Some natives brought four Napaul deer into the camp, which they offered for sale; they were very small and

their heads resembled more that of the pig than the deer; their coats were harsh and of a greyish colour.

On the first day of the new year we marched to a plain about three miles from Monghyr, and were soon surrounded by the merchants of straw-hats, bonnets, punkahs, and baskets in endless variety, as well as of guns, kettles, and hardware of all kinds. Many of the guns, and pistols bear the names of English makers of good repute, in order to insure a quicker sale; but the forgery is very palpable, and the fire-arms are, by sportsmen, considered extremely unsafe. Regarding the manufactories, however, I had but little curiosity; as my desire was to reach the adjacent town, and to visit the celebrated hot-wells at "Seeta-coome."

Our attempts to obtain bearers to the palanquin were ineffectual, and we could not require any extra work from my regular set; however, most fortunately a Baptist missionary, who has for some years been established at Monghyr, heard of our need, and, with more promptness than we should have been likely to meet with in England, sent his buggy and horse to take

us to his house. Of this we gladly took advantage, and met with a most friendly reception from himself and his large family, one member of which accompanied us in a palanquin carriage drawn by two prodigiously fat bullocks to the wells. These wells are held sacred by the Hindoos, and are guarded by Bramins, who levy a heavy tax upon all who seek them for holy purposes, as for ablution or for the cure of disease. The principal well is enclosed within a mud wall, on the inner side of which are steps which lead down into the water on four sides. The well is built to a depth of twenty feet with solid masonry, and the water is so extremely clear that the smallest object can be discerned at the bottom of it. The heat of the water is about 130°. We could not learn that it possessed any peculiar mineral properties; but it is of so pure a nature that it has been taken to England and even brought back again, without undergoing the slightest change. A Hindoo was performing penance at the time we were there, by lying in dust and ashes, and appearing in the most filthy state that can be imagined. Several Hindoo temples are in the immediate

vicinity of the wells, and from the walls we had a fine view of the hilly country around. The Curruckpore hills are striking objects, and a lake at their base adds much to the effect of the scene. The hills, which become visible from hence, are rocky, and divested of the rich clothing which we have hitherto seen: they are, however, far more picturesque.

On our return from Seeta-coome we paid a visit to the fort at Monghyr, which is now in ruins, but still very interesting; the walls in many places are entire, and the gateways handsome; a deep fosse round the fort, still marks its boundaries. It commands a splendid view of the Ganges,—which is here at some periods of the year nearly ten miles in width,—and also of the distant ranges of hills, which have so long been our admiration.

Monghyr is considered a healthy station, and many Europeans have attained a great age therein: one instance of which occurred a few years since, in the death of a man who was upwards of ninety, and who had taken part in the siege and capture of the fort.

Our kind host gave us a very good account

of the conversions amongst the Hindoos, whom he much prefers to the Musslemaun population of the neighbourhood, as being far more ready to hear instruction and to allow their children to attend his schools, provided only that nothing is required from them which would injure their caste. Even this is a great point gained, as their morals and motives of action may, at any rate, be improved, and that great bar to conversion, the difference of caste, by degrees be weakened. Several Bramins have been baptized by Mr. Moore, and of one he speaks in the highest terms; in fact, he went so far as to say, that were his discourses translated into English he doubts if we should have finer orations in the language.

Mr. Leslie, his assistant missionary, is now amongst the hills, whither he goes each cool season, to carry instruction amongst the Puharrees, of whom I have already spoken; one of them has taught him their language, and, being himself a convert to the Baptist faith, has proved a great assistance to him.

Mr. Moore came into the country with Archdeacon Corrie, and is between fifty and sixty

years of age; he has a numerous family, consisting, I think, of twelve sons and daughters, besides many grand-children.

The town of Monghyr is extremely neat and clean, and resembles more an English town, than any which we have seen in the East. This arises from its having been chosen as a residence by a number of non-commissioned European officers, who, having become superannuated, have accepted pensions and appointments here, rather than return to a land which has now no charms for them.

Before leaving Monghyr, we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Moore and his somewhat numerous flock enter the little chapel for the afternoon service, where I would gladly have entered too, but we had yet to make our way back to our encamping ground, and to prepare for a march on the following morning.

January 2. Marched to Hybut Gunge, a distance of nearly fifteen miles; but the road was excellent, and often interesting, being enlivened on one side by the distant hills, and on the other by the Ganges. On this day's march we had two trifling Nullahs to cross, and on the

next day proceeded to Balgoozur; the road was good, but as the distance was twenty miles, and several of my bearers were complaining of sickness even before we set out, they were nearly seven hours in accomplishing the march. The regiment, too, was more than six hours *en route*. We had a considerable river to cross, called the "Pallaghu," more than half of which was merely dry sand, and the remainder fordable; we afterwards crossed the "Ammanaut" by a bridge of boats, and about three miles from thence reached our encampment, which was under a luxuriant grove of mangoe trees.

January 4. Went twelve miles to Deriapore, over a good road; but several of my bearers were too sick to render any service, and the remainder made very poor progress, although assisted by three dooly bearers. The fact is, that our long marches have exhausted the strength of these poor fellows, and, if possible, we intend to get an entire new set at Dinapore.

We have now completely lost the cocoa-nut trees and palmyras, but their absence is compensated for by the date and toddy palms;

and the Mangoe groves are more luxuriant than ever. This evening a sad accident happened in camp, which might have proved of fatal consequences. An officer was carrying a fowling-piece under his arm on half-cock, when it unfortunately went off and lodged its contents in the arm of his companion; though the charge was of large buck shot, the bone happily escaped a fracture, by the shot passing along the fleshy part of the arm.

January 6. *Barr.* — Having provided myself with fresh bearers, I was enabled to accomplish the march of this morning with tolerable ease, although it consisted of at least sixteen miles. The road was very good in some parts, and we had many very pretty openings upon the river. Groves of Mangoe trees constantly bounded our path; and we passed through several plantations of the cotton tree, whose blossom is now fast fading and giving place to the downy state in which the cotton is gathered.

On the morning of the seventh we had a very long and arduous march of sixteen miles to "Ranee ke Serai:" the country retains the same appearance, which it has done since we

left Monghyr, and is in many places extremely pretty. On approaching Ranee ke Serai, we discovered the encampment of H. M. 38th regiment, and shortly afterwards met the regiment itself *en route*. It was a beautiful morning, and, as we were considerably in advance, we waited to see the two regiments pass, and my palanquin was placed on a little ascent by the road side. The 38th, being the junior regiment, then drew up in open order to salute, and the 16th marched briskly past whilst its band played in its own beautiful style the inspiring quick march from "Fra Diavolo." The 38th had suffered extremely from heavy rains, which fell about the 25th of December, and on this account they had been obliged to halt at Buxar. The rain which had troubled us the most, had fallen about the 12th. When we saw the 38th, it was *en route* to Barrackpore, and shortly afterwards embarked for England.

January 8. *Futwah.*—Another long march; we did not reach the encampment, which was nearly three miles beyond Futwah, until ten o'clock, although we had set out at four.

Futwah is remarkable for the manufacture

of table and other linen; but, having halted at some distance from the town, we had no opportunity of seeing or purchasing any. However, on the following day, we had ample opportunities of making amends, as innumerable merchants brought their wares into the camp. This linen is undoubtedly of an admirable quality, and, though not so sightly as our English damasks, is much more durable, and extremely soft and pleasant to the touch.

January 9. This morning we marched from Futwah and through Patna, but, unfortunately, our hour of departure was so early that we could see nothing of that city on this occasion, though on a subsequent one I had an opportunity of admiring it extremely. The morning, at four o'clock when we started, was dark and cold, and I was glad to close my palanquin; the consequence of this was that I fell into a comfortable slumber from which I did not awake until I was set down in the midst of our encampment, and thus lost a view of this very interesting city.

We found the camp of H. M. 44th regiment immediately adjoining our own; with whom

we are to exchange animals of burden, as the camels, tents, and hackeries of the former regiment are to return with us in lieu of the elephants, &c. which we have brought from Chinsurah. One of the elephants we shall be very glad to part with, as it has for some time been quite useless and often dangerous; on one occasion attacking its Mahout with great violence, and frequently attempting to break loose from the fetters with which it has been bound. One day it succeeded so far as to escape many miles into the jungle, but was fortunately recaptured through the agency of one of its tamer companions.

The 44th regiment, under Colonel Shelton, are on the march from Cawnpore to Chinsurah, and have been one month *en route*, having only halted three days during that period. In the evening a gay party assembled to hear their band play; many of the neighbouring gentry were present, and the scene was animated and pretty. At night the officers of the 16th regiment dined with those of the 44th, who carried with them a good mess tent and suitable accommodations.

Near us is the "Golah" of which much has been written; it is a ponderous building, but totally unsuited to the purpose for which it was built; as, were it filled with grain, it could not contain sufficient to be of any service in case of a famine; it is now empty, and the steps which lead to the top on its outer side are in many parts much dilapidated. An officer of our acquaintance once rode to the top of this immense structure for a wager, at the imminent risk of breaking his own neck as well as that of his horse. Without injury to the former, he was fortunate enough to descend, but his horse, which was a fine high-mettled animal, rolled to the base of the building, a disjointed and lifeless mass.

CHAPTER VI.

Dinapore. — Deegah Farm. — Hackeries pillaged. — Alarms of Thieves. — Fakir's Tomb at Moonear. — Mosque at Arrah. — Buxar. — Stud Establishment. — Ghazeepore. — The Cantonments. — Church. — Lord Cornwallis's Monument. — Rose Plantations. — Process of Sugar-making. — Halt at Secrole. — Illness and Death of the Colonel. — Benares. — Aurengzebe's Mosque. — Description of Benares. — Its Fakirs and Mendicants. — Gross Superstition of the Hindoos. — Brahminy Bulls and Monkies. — Richness of the Merchandize in the Shops. — Baboo Heridos's House. — Loosewallahs. — Attempt at Robbery.

JANUARY 11. In camp six miles from Dinapore. Yesterday we left the neighbourhood of Bankipore for that of Dinapore; but as we were anxious to see more of this latter place than we could have done, had we gone immediately to the encampment, we ordered our servants to pitch our breakfast tent near the town. This, however, we afterwards found much cause to regret.

On the road to Dinapore we passed some handsome houses belonging to the civilians of the station, and, when about three miles from the town, reached the well known "Deegah farm," at that time kept by Mr. Havel. We were much delighted with the extreme neatness of all its arrangements. In the first instance, we were shown the well-cooled apartments in which the pickling and curing of meat of every description is carried on; fowls, fish, &c. are all laid out in tempting array, and in extraordinary profusion; and at the further extremity of the long room, used for this purpose, is another, in which are preserves and pickles of every kind. We then visited the gardens, which are upwards of a mile in circumference; the flowers are mostly English, and the fruit-trees and vegetables very luxuriant. The farm-yard succeeded, and nothing can exceed the order and cleanliness with which this part of his establishment was arranged. His piggeries contained the "unclean beast" in every state of gradation, and his fat oxen would have gladdened the eyes of an English farmer. Mr. Havel has been particularly celebrated for his

pickled humps, which he provides of an enormous size and excellent quality; indeed, some of the bullocks which we saw ready for the knife, were undoubtedly most liberally endowed with these extraordinary protuberances. After having seen all that particularly interested us in his gardens, we were shown into Mr. Havel's private residence, in order to admire a peculiarly rich carpet of fine velvet, which had originally been made for the king of Oude.

No traveller ought to pass Dinapore without paying a visit to "the Deegah farm;" although, since Mr. Havel's death, which occurred a year or two after we were there, the establishment has fallen off considerably.

Mr. Havel resided at Deegah upwards of forty years, and at one time having amassed wealth to the amount of 250,000*l.*, went to England for the purpose of ending his days in luxury; somehow or other, however, a few years' residence in Portland Place proved sufficient to see the transfer of this sum into other hands, and the farmer was compelled to return to India and to his former occupation. When

he first took the land into cultivation, it was little better than a bog.

Dinapore has a very large square, in which are barracks for an European and some Sepoy regiments; also a very handsome church. The cantonment is close to the Ganges, and is not considered an unhealthy station, although cholera frequently visits and commits great ravages in it.

On reaching our tent we found all the servants in great distress. During the previous night some thieves had attacked the well-packed, but ill-guarded hackeries, which we had sent on from Bankipore. Two tin boxes, called Petarrahs, had been carried off, and completely ransacked of their most portable contents, or of what could be rendered useful to natives, either as articles of food or clothing. The boxes themselves had been found in a neighbouring ravine, and brought back by the servants; but unfortunately the loss fell the most heavily upon my Irish woman, who ran to meet me as soon as she espied my palanquin advancing, wringing her hands, and, as usual with her, vociferating in a most violent manner. Some

time elapsed before I could understand one word that she uttered, as the genuine Irish was little more intelligible than the broken Hindoostanee. Half-a-dozen voices were raised at once, and it was in vain that I attempted to make out the disaster, until I had arrived upon the ground. My palanquin bearers stood looking on in amazement; the Khidmutgars and Classies anxiously tried to exculpate themselves from the heavy charge of carelessness, in having slept soundly whilst their master's property was being carried off: poor Mrs. Carigg exhibited all the violent grief so characteristic of her country people; her face was bathed in tears, and she held in her hands the few remnants of her property, which she had recovered from the spot on which the thieves had emptied the boxes. The poor Dhobie sat weeping in silence, for he had lost his smoothing iron, the bulk of his property; a bundle of linen lay by his side, fortunately saved from the general devastation: he looked the very personification of misery. On the ground were strewed dried tongues, hams, hunter's beef, bread, butter, *et cetera*, all of which had been rejected by the con-

scientious thieves, who would have lost caste had they touched such articles. In the midst of this scene of distress, up came my sirdar bearer, who had been following my palkie; he walked quietly round the remaining bundles and boxes, in search of his own property, but discovered it not. His grief, like the Dhobie's, was silent; he advanced towards me, and, folding his arms upon his bosom, informed me, that the dress he wore was all that was left to him in the world. "But who could control the will of God?"

Poor sirdar! what could I say? the Irish woman heard his exclamation, and understood his pitiful plight; "fellow feeling" ought to have made her more kind, but in the midst of her own misery she burst into a violent fit of laughter, in which I was glad to see the sirdar likewise join. I was really distressed for all our sakes; but Mrs. Carigg afterwards told me, that, whilst listening to their woes, she saw an ill-suppressed smile upon my countenance: it might be so, for I confess that the scene had something about it inexpressibly ludicrous. We afterwards contrived to make a tolerable breakfast upon what was left, and despatching two or

three servants to Dinapore, to replace the lost articles, we soon afterwards set off to join the encampment, about six miles distant.

Since then we have heard only of the depredations of thieves; several of the officers of H. M. 44th regiment were completely pillaged near this place, many servants have been robbed, and last night our chokedar caught an unfortunate being prowling round our tent, but whether with evil intent or not is uncertain. The servants brought him in triumph before us this morning; they had tied his arms behind him, and treated him in no gentle manner; the poor wretch was shivering with cold, almost divested of clothing, and exposed to the piercing air of the morning. About half-a-dozen strong fellows stood round him with stout staves in their hands, as if fearful lest he should escape, whilst the accused, who was quite a boy, wept like a child. To do justice to his guards, I must say, that I do not believe one amongst them would have actually struck him, notwithstanding all this warlike display. He was sent to the guard-house, until a case could be made out against him, but escaped in the course of the day, much

to our satisfaction. During our stay in the neighbourhood of Dinapore, the alarms of thieves were incessant. Again we were called up, in the dead of the night, by a real or imagined noise; all the servants were on the *qui vive*, and anxious to find an intruder: they told us somebody was within, and placed themselves at every avenue; in vain we shook the "purdus*," no "chor," or "loosewallah†," made his appearance, and every one seemed disappointed at the want of *sport*. To day Sir Edward Barnes landed at Dinapore, and, after staying a short time, continued his journey to Calcutta.

January 13. Monday. — After a comfortable halt of two days at Dinapore, (for, notwithstanding our multifarious dangers, it was a most acceptable rest for every creature concerned,) we prepared to continue our route. Supplies were hourly arriving from "Deegah farm,"— all of which had to be properly stowed away; all those whose crockery had been demolished during our disastrous marches, had here an

* Skreens, or curtains of the tent.

† Thief.



THE TOMB OF MADOUN, SÁÁ OULIER FAKIR AT MOONEAR.

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opportunity of renewing their lost articles, every one had full occupation as well as time for repose, and when we started for Moonear, we did so with renewed strength and energy.

Moonear boasts a remarkably handsome building, close to which we were encamped. It is the tomb of a fakir, by name, as nearly as I could make out, "Madoun Saa Oulier," and has been built about three hundred years. It is kept beautifully clean, and has a large and handsome tank attached to it, constructed by the admirers of the holy man. We entered the building by a richly ornamented gateway, and advanced into a spacious court, in which stands the tomb-house, containing several apartments. One large dome in the centre is surrounded by four smaller ones, one at each corner of the building, all most elaborately ornamented, on the outer side; but, if possible, what exceeds the domes in beauty is the roof of a deep verandah encircling the building, and which is supported by pillars exquisitely carved. I never recollect to have seen such a profusion of ornament. Some pious Musslemauns, who devote themselves

to the preservation of the tomb, courteously invited us to enter the holy precincts, and we accordingly approached the tomb, which stood under the centre dome in the midst of a large hall; it is elevated about a yard from the ground, constructed of white chunam, and was covered with a large white sheet. Round the hall we remarked windows of extreme beauty; the openworked carving of each one differing from that of the others, and between each two was a niche for a lamp. On passing through the hall into the outer court, on the opposite side to that by which we had entered, we stood before a number of smaller tombs, doubtless placed there by the faithful in order to be near the sacred remains of him for whom this costly edifice had been erected.

A number of merchants had made a halting place of the outer court, on their road from Delhi to Calcutta. One old man and his family presented a most picturesque groupe, and would have made an admirable subject for a painting. He appeared at least fourscore years of age; a long white beard rested on his bosom, and his complexion was as black as jet;

upon the ground, by his side, reclined a young female, who might be his daughter; she was resting her head upon her elbow; above her wrists were some dozen of silver or enamelled bracelets, and a massive ornament, parted high on the forehead, and conveyed behind each ear, became her well;—besides these, she wore the usual nose and ear adornments, and her feet and ankles were laden with rings and chains; a thin muslin scarf was thrown over the back part of her head, and enveloped her bosom; and although she had been enjoying the luxurious hubble-bubble, her dark languishing eyes sparkled with animation. A child, of perhaps a year old, rested against the old man's knee: it was naked, if a silver ring of perhaps an inch in circumference encircling his body, and similar ornaments round his diminutive ankles, be not considered articles of clothing. Slightly removed, but evidently belonging to their party, were two fine young men, busily engaged in preparing food for the rest.

We wandered through a grove of trees which adjoined the mausoleum, and when we had caught a good view of the edifice, I took a

sketch of its general effect; but it would be difficult to do adequate justice to its super-abundant ornaments.

January 14. This morning we had a short march to Quilqur Ghât, to attain which place we had to cross the river Soane; at the period of our being there it was a considerable stream, and very few boats had been prepared for the regiment; this occasioned much inconvenience, but being in advance of the rest we were able to get across without much difficulty, though not without many inconveniences and certain animadversions. We had here a fine piece of ground for the camp, and the house of a civilian stood immediately before our tents. Among the sands of the Soane are found some curious white pebbles, nearly resembling the mocho-stone, with delineations representing weeds, mosses, insects, &c. in them.. They are highly valued, and a high price was asked for one which was brought to our tent for sale.

January 15th. Marched a distance of nine or ten miles, over an excellent road to Puckree near Arrah. The former is a tolerably large village, the latter appeared a considerable town,

containing some good civilians' houses, and several pretty mosques. Here we halted for one day, and had an opportunity of visiting a mosque which was built by a faithful mussle-maun, a female, who resides at Arrah. Attached to the mosque is a garden; in the midst of which stands a monument erected to the memory of Mr. Deane, Honourable Company's Civil Service, who died here some years since. The garden is large and productive, but as formal as the most Batavian imagination can conceive,

In the evening we walked towards Arrah; the country is flat and tolerably well cultivated, but not nearly so interesting as that which we have lately passed through.

17th. A short march to Gurrah Gunge of eight miles, the road to which place was excellent, but the country perfectly uninteresting, and on the following day we advanced to Ranee ki Sagoor, where we encamped in an open plain, but where, as the wind was high, we were nearly choked with dust.

On Monday the 20th, marched twelve miles to Bogepore; the dust still intolerable, and the

only event at all varying from the common, was a visit paid to the colonel, by two sons of a neighbouring rajah, who brought in their train a retinue of servants, bearing presents of fruit, vegetables, flowers, &c.

On the next day we reached Buxar, where we crossed the Ganges without much difficulty, being again in advance of the regiment, and plenty of boats having been provided. The river at this place does not appear much wider than the Thames a little below London. The fort at Buxar presents a very poor appearance when viewed from the land, but it is a beautiful object when seen from the centre of the river; as it stands upon a rocky eminence, which juts boldly out into the water. It is now retained as a station for invalids, and one of the government studs is here established.

In the hot season no place can look more like an uncovered oven than Buxar, and instead of being the resort of invalids one would think it a more suitable residence for those upon whose constitutions the variations of climate and extreme heat can make no inroads. We encamped on the left bank of the Ganges at a

place called Kurrunta Dee, where there is also a part of the stud; this we had an opportunity of visiting, and saw about four hundred horses, kept in high condition and beautiful order. Each animal has its age and parentage marked upon a ticket attached to its stall; those of two years old were galloping about a large field in great glee, chasing each other with unrestrained freedom. Those of three and four years old were still in their stables; having attained the age of four, they are generally sent to Ghazepore for sale. They may be purchased, however, at the stud, and the usual price for the best horse in the stables is one thousand rupees, or about a hundred pounds. We halted for two days at this place, but, with the exception of the stud, found little to amuse. The fleet containing the officers' wives, invalid soldiers, &c. is now fast approaching; some of the Budgerows are already here.

Friday, 24th.—Marched about twelve miles to Mohammedabad, and on Saturday, the 25th, ten miles to Ghazepore, where we at one time expected that our march would terminate.

Our encampment was four miles from the military cantonment; but as we had an acquaintance in H. M. 3d. Buffs quartered there, we spent Sunday in a very pretty bungalow on the banks of the river. The church is a handsome edifice, standing on the side of a large plain, and near it is a monument erected to the memory of Lord Cornwallis, who died here on his way up the country; it is built in imitation of the famed Sybil's temple, but varies in many essential respects from its prototype.

The government barracks are good, but the cantonment straggling, though rather pretty. The rose-beds are three or four miles from thence, and as the flowers are each morning gathered before sunrise, they present no beauty to the eye, and the trees are placed in formal rows, and kept very low. An immense quantity of what was called atta was brought into camp, but of wretched quality; indeed the genuine atta cannot be procured by the casual visitor, as it must be bespoken from the most respectable merchants, and at all times fetches an enormous price. We, however, purchased some of De l'Etang's excellent rose-water, which is

certainly very superior to that which is sold by the itinerant vendors.

On Monday the 27th we advanced thirteen miles to an uninteresting spot, and on the following morning reached Seidpore, where there is a very handsome Hindoo temple; its spire resembled more that of an English church than any which I have hitherto seen in India. It was elaborately ornamented with images of Hindoo worship. We could not gain admittance, although we offered to pay largely for the indulgence; and though I made several attempts on this and subsequent occasions, I never was allowed to enter a Hindoo place of worship. Over the door of the one which attracted our attention at Siedpore, we discovered the usual images of Vishnu, Hunimân, and many armed and headed animals of various shapes and sizes.

January 29. *Choubriepore.* — This evening we unexpectedly discovered a sugar manufactory in the neighbourhood of our tent, and were much amused at the very simple method by which the juice is expressed from the cane. The hollowed stump of a tree, of perhaps a yard and a half in length, is placed in an

upright position; this is filled with the sugar cane, which is cut in pieces of an inch or two in length, and into the centre is thrust the thick branch of a tree; to this again a branch is horizontally fixed, to which are yoked two oxen; a man is perched upon this latter beam or branch, his feet as usual being on a level with the seat which supports him; in this position he goads on the oxen by twisting their unfortunate tails, or by giving their backs an occasional thrust with a heavy stick which he holds in his hand. As both the upright and horizontal beam were very crooked and distorted in form, the rider in this case was sometimes elevated to a considerable height, then as suddenly brought down nearly to the ground. My astonishment was, that he could maintain his seat, insecure as it was; but that he did so was certain, and greatly did he appear to enjoy his irregular mode of life.

Beneath the hollow trunk was a vat, into which the juice was intended to flow, if procured in sufficient quantity; but when we saw the manufactory, the liquid was allowed to escape from a small hole at the lower, but outer part

of the trunk, and was from thence carried in jars to be boiled and refined. A man stood near the upright pole, and, as the sugar-cane became pressed, refilled the empty space. Near these people were others busily engaged in boiling the juice over hot charcoal fires, made upon the ground between two little walls of mud, which served to support the large but shallow pans in which the sugar was deposited. When properly prepared and cleansed from impurities, the sugar is sent to Benares and thence to Calcutta. The poor labourers told us, that they only obtained two rupees per maund or nearly eighty pounds' weight for their remuneration; but this I suspect only applied to the sugar in its coarsest state, and not when fit for use.

On our approach to the manufactory we had unintentionally alarmed a drove of buffaloes which were feeding in an adjoining yard. The whole drove set off at full speed over the roof of a shed which obstructed their egress; the confusion was awful, as these unwieldy and ungraceful animals scrambled over each other. Some surmounted the shed in safety, and gained

the open country, but more of them fell headlong through the thatched roof, and then, wild with fear, forced their way out.

Our next advance was to Secrole, near Benares, where it was our lot to remain upwards of a fortnight, on account of the severe illness and death of Lieut.-Col. Hook, at that time commanding the regiment. We arrived at Secrole on the 31st of January; near the cantonment we passed over a very pretty bridge which has lately been erected; it is built in a solid and English style. We were encamped on a very extensive plain, upon which two Sepoy regiments were already stationed; another native corps marched in on the day we entered, and a park of artillery arrived from Chunar, where they had been to exercise. All these combined formed a very martial display.

On one evening we joined a gay crowd which had assembled to hear the band of one of the native regiments play; three neighbouring rajahs were present, and made a great display of equipages and attendants. He of Benares, the rajah of Mooreshadabad, and another whose designation I have forgotten, were there, accom-

panied by elephants in rich trappings, and native carriages in abundance.

February 3d. Early this morning we went to Benares, and ascended one of the minarets of Aurengzebe's mosque. What a view met our eyes! The Ganges, the holy city crowded to its banks, and rising in the form of an amphitheatre, high above the stream, the mosques and minarets, the Hindoo temples, and public institutions, the Ghâts, and the crowds of natives thronging to and fro, in their neighbourhood, the flights of pigeons around every shrine and temple, the parrots innumerable, screaming as they flew past, and the strange looking houses beneath us, combined to form a *tout ensemble* which no imagination can conceive.

Perhaps there is more to be seen in Benares than in any other city of Hindoostan, certainly more to interest the casual observer; its public institutions are numerous, and there are a number of private residences which may be entered without difficulty, and which are well worth examination.

The public streets in Benares are extremely narrow and irregular, so much so, that even my

palanquin could sometimes with difficulty be conveyed along them, and to turn the sharp angles of the buildings was, occasionally, next to impossible.

Of course we had been prepared for the disgusting sights of the deformed and diseased mendicants of this city; they were indeed numerous, but I think not quite so horrible as I anticipated. Several fakirs asked arms, who would, undoubtedly, excite a strange sensation if suddenly transported to any part of our English metropolis; but we had already seen many horrible objects of a similar kind, and their faces and emaciated forms, rubbed with chalk and cow-dung, had almost ceased to create any feeling but that of disgust. Near the river's bank lay a number of the deformed and wretched population, some rendered so by rigid penance, and others perchance through nature's ordinance. More than one crawled towards us upon one leg and his hands, whilst the other leg, now incapacitated for service, was held high in the air behind the infatuated being. One poor creature I noticed, coming with no trifling difficulty by the aid of both hands and feet;

but the latter had been compelled to carry him for so long a time in the attitude of a quadruped, that the joints of the knee had become distorted, refused to return to their original position, and projected more backwards than forwards; indeed we found that he had sworn never again to attempt to assume the human form, and his head, as if by a refinement of cruelty, was bent backwards between his shoulders. We gave some small coins to the foremost of these beggars, but were quickly compelled to desist, or the clamour and intrusiveness of the rest would have been intolerable.

Crowds of Hindoos come to Benares to end their days, as all who breathe their last within the precincts of this holy city consider themselves certain of immortality; many drown themselves in the sacred river in its immediate neighbourhood, and the number who annually perish through wilful starvation, is stated to exceed belief.

As we went along the streets, the fat bulls dedicated to Seva constantly impeded our progress; they, however, though troublesome, are perfectly harmless, and some of them are very

handsome animals. Many are confined in small enclosures, or in the lower apartments of the houses during the busiest period of the day, or during the extreme heat; but there are always plenty left free to range, and to be a sufficient source of annoyance to the passengers.

We did not see so many of Hunimaun's monkeys as we had been led to expect, but in the vicinity of one temple they were in great abundance, and kept up an incessant jabber.

The houses themselves are very curious, many of them, several stories in height, are unlike the generality of Indian houses; they are frequently very gaudily painted on the outside in designs of flowers or hideous and nondescript animals, whilst a great number have shrines dedicated to different deities erected in little niches or recesses in their walls. These, in many respects, resembled the shrines which are so frequently seen in Roman Catholic countries; indeed, we, on more than one occasion, met with a female figure which might have passed for the Virgin Mary, quite as well as some of the absurd representations

which are worshipped in Roman Catholic Europe. We entered several houses belonging to native merchants. On each occasion we had to ascend narrow, dirty, and sometimes dilapidated flights of stairs, but when their stores were opened, and we had the rich kinkobs and turbans displayed, what wealth was there! Then, too, the actual owners would sit smoking the everlasting hubble-bubble, or chewing betel, as if totally uninterested in the scene before them, whilst their servants were exhibiting the costly tissues.

We went into the principal square of the city; it is surrounded by considerable buildings, the lower stories of which are shops, and the various wares are displayed in little open verandahs supported upon pillars. Many of these shops are very amusing, as the goods are of a perfectly Eastern character. Here we behold piles of Musslemaun slippers, of every colour and variety of embroidery, some of them extremely pretty; in an adjoining stall are perhaps every kind of hookah, curiously ornamented and as endless in form and novelty of design as the corresponding luxury which German pipe-shops furnish; next to these are

generally the tobacco venders, in which the fragrant weed is to be procured in every state from the dry form into which it was first converted from the plant, to the cheroot or to the preparation for the hookah: in the latter state it has undergone many purgations, as well as received numerous additions, having been mixed with conserve of roses, coarse sugar, and scented waters of many kinds. The best tobacco is made at Chunar, and is highly valued by those who profess to be judges in such matters.

Benares and Patna are remarkably celebrated for the manufacture of children's toys, consequently the large square at Benares exhibits at least a dozen shops which are occupied by these bagatelles, the prices of which are very moderate. I think a hundred well painted and varnished ones can be purchased for about two rupees.

Here, too, the Patna wax candles are to be had, as well as the linens from the same neighbourhood; the silks of Bauglepore, the rice from Patna, in extraordinary quantities, and the sugar of Benares, at the moderate price of three

or four seers for the rupee, a seer being equal to two pounds.

The grain shops are not without their share of interest. In them every kind of maize and pulse are to be seen, neatly arranged in little baskets, whilst the salesman, hidden behind the pile, sleeps through the heat of the day, or, indolently stretched at full length, smokes his hubble-bubble, unless aroused by the arrival of a customer. The money changers are seated behind their heaps of coin, and are perhaps a little more on the alert than their brethren of the grain shops; these people are great usurers, and although very ready to lend as well as to exchange monies, invariably require an enormous percentage upon every transaction. Their gold they carefully conceal from the public gaze, but many of them have large stores of gold mohurs snugly stowed away, either in their cumberbunds or in some secret recess. The stalls for native female ornaments are very pretty; here every description of ring and pendent may be examined, but those which are made at Delhi are frequently of a superior

quality, besides being more diversified in the embellishment.

Occasionally the Dirzees are to be seen stitching away at some piece of native costume, or busily employed upon a comfortable rissaï preparing its cotton lining, and carefully quilting it in diamond shapes. Native preserves and condiments are in great profusion, as no people in the world are fonder of sweets and *bonbons* than the Indians; but these things are usually made of the coarsest sugar, and often mixed with a superabundance of ghee. I have heard that some of them are extremely good, but I never could prevail upon myself to taste any thing but some little white cakes, which were sent to us by a nawab at Cawnpore, and which would have resembled what is sometimes called the "Amarenga" in England, being composed of only eggs and sugar, had they not also been flavoured with a dash of ghee and a fine "*idea*" of smoked buffalo milk.

No butcher's meat is to be seen in this busy square, as no "gosht wallahs" would be likely to exhibit their supplies in that part of the city. They are generally quite apart from the rest,

and always carry their meat to their customers' houses, to the tents of marching parties, or to the bungalows of the neighbouring residents. All who have any thing to do with this branch of traffic are, of course, Musslemauns, and of these, I have been told, that they who actually take the life of the animals are Bhesties; that the victim's head is always turned to a particular point of the compass, and that a certain ceremony attends the destruction of its life.

After leaving the "chuok" or square, we found the heat too great to admit of our pursuing our examination of the city on that day; consequently, getting once more into our palanquins, we retraversed our homeward way, but we had yet a vast deal to see in the Holy City.

The next morning we paid a visit to Baboo Heridass, and were much pleased with his pretty gardens, and the curious style of the architecture of his house; many of his rooms were richly adorned with carving, and one or two were elegantly furnished with mirrors and gilding. A small octagonal room was very conveniently arranged to admit the air from every direction, and was erected upon light pillars, in

a retired part of the garden; this was what he called his "Hawa k,hana dalan," which, rendered literally, would mean, a hall in which to eat the air. There was a very elegant mosque within a hundred yards of his house, built, we understood, by his father.

February 5. On this day we again set out for Benares, and failed not to be on our way by daybreak. The tomb of Shekh Solimâun was the first place we visited, and we found it well worth a survey. Again we found ourselves in the midst of Hindoo temples and painted houses; the streets were filled with people even at that early hour, and I soon espied a few Brahminy bulls and half-starved cows, but not nearly so many as on the first occasion of our being there. This arose from a greater number of them having been driven into their enclosures, or from their having betaken themselves to the river's banks, where a group of them were congregated. We had then the Observatory to see; it is very ancient, and has fallen into total disuse. Into the Hindoo college we could not conveniently gain admittance; we however visited some more of the ghâts, and

took a general survey of the city; — the best point from which to see it is undoubtedly from the centre of the river: from thence are beheld the innumerable sacred buildings which crowd its bank, and above them tower the merchants' houses, interspersed with mosques and minarets, domes and temples.

The bank of the river is filled with natives, either performing their ablutions or landing their merchandise; and country boats of every description throng the ghâts. Upon the whole, Benares is a most extraordinary looking town, and truly Eastern in all its features; there are a few of its buildings which we could not well enter without a guide, and though we had engaged a person to lead us through all its intricacies, he disappointed us, and we were frequently obliged to trust ourselves to the directions of our own servants.

One night at Secrole we were very near losing a box of some value, as we were still in the country of thieves. In the dead of the night, our servants and palkie bearers, having satisfied their inclinations for hubble-bubble, gradually sank into deep slumber, round a good

fire, notwithstanding the numerous protestations which all of them had made to keep vigilant watch by turns. Then it was that a "chor," who had doubtless watched their proceedings, entered upon his vocation. A large square box stood within the outer and inner division of the tent, and this he undertook to carry off, having, no doubt, remarked its position during the course of the previous day. Most fortunately, however, one of our party awoke, and, as usual, listened for interlopers, when the gentle sliding of the box became heard; in an instant the alarm was given, and though I had heard no one, I failed not to give all the assistance in my power, by calling "loose wallah, loose wallah." We were immediately surrounded by our servants, but the thief was off, and the box remained to bear testimony to his nefarious intent. It had been dragged to a small opening, which he had made by taking up a peg which was one of many used to fasten down the walls of the tent; a few moments more and it would have entirely disappeared. A bushy haired Chokedah thrust his head through this aperture, and was quickly followed by his com-

panions, all armed with huge bamboos, now, however, totally useless. Mrs. Carrigg was as clamorous as on former occasions, and every one was wonderfully valiant, provided no danger was apparent. It was impossible to repress a smile; the contents of the box were of some value, but a glance had sufficed to show that nothing was gone. A survey then took place, and every corner of the tent was examined, but no loose-wallah was secreted there, and our bearers, much disconcerted at having been found napping after all their boasted vigilance, retired to regale our ears with constant watch-cries during the remainder of the night.

CHAPTER VII.

Mohun ke Serai. — Great Utility of the Serai. — Description of a Loose-wallah. — Their Depredations in the Camp. — Mirzapore Carpets. — Pilgrims. — Holy Water. — Allahabad. — Junction of the Jumna and Ganges. — Description of the Fort at Allahabad. — A Colony of Fakirs. — Hindoo Mythology. — Prince Khosoroo's Serai — its extensive Gardens. — Kurah — its Fields of white Poppy. — Futtehpore. — Danger of having Horses poisoned by the Inhabitants.

THE death and interment of the Colonel took place about the 7th of February; our rest continued over the following day, which was Sunday, and on Monday, the 10th, we marched to Mohun ke Serai, seven and a half miles, where is a very large serai, which was completely thronged with travellers. These useful resting-places generally present a great medley of visitors; each party of wanderers may establish themselves upon a spot which they appropriate for their own exclusive use, be their difference

of religion or of caste what it may. The buildings owe their origin to private benevolence, and generally consist of a large square enclosure, provided with a covered verandah on every side. Here were to be seen wandering Arabs, whose steeds were piqueted in the centre of the square, or perhaps in their own immediate neighbourhood upon the verandah. Cabul merchants, with gloves and stockings of the softest quality, or with pomegranates, rhubarb, and musk. Sepoys on furlough, on their homeward way to visit their distant families, whose stout little tattoos enjoy the rest, and almost share the food of their masters; for all are alike fond of grain, whether merely dried or in a parched state. These men always present a half civil, half military appearance; for although when on route, they still wear the jacket, and perhaps the shako, of their corps, the trowsers almost invariably give place to the white linen wrappers of the Hindoos; but let him cast away all external marks of his profession, the Sepoy is still to be known by his never-omitted salute and erect bearing. Besides all these, are native merchants of various classes,

colour, and costume, the wealthy Baboo with his servants and followers, or the miserable fakir, mad from the effects of opium, or almost dead from rigid abstemiousness. A few camels, and perhaps two or three elephants, are generally to be seen enjoying the luxury of a halt.

Near to the serai is usually a bazaar, whence all kinds of grain can be procured; and more than this, the Indian seldom requires, unless a morsel of kid, fish, or vegetable be added, to flavour the cürry, which might otherwise consist of d,hâl alone.

It is probable that the serai at Mohun ke Serai contained no inconsiderable number of light-fingured gentry, as our own tent was attacked three times during the night of our halt in its vicinity, and the cry of "loose-wallah" through the camp was incessant. Once only were we actually robbed on this occasion, and that happened about the hour of two in the morning. I then heard a gentle rustling against the fly of the tent, and saw a screen move. I immediately gave the alarm, my husband rushed out, and the thief, with the sinuous motion of an eel, glided between his

legs, and thus escaped: he had no clothing on his well-oiled body, and not a hair was left upon his head, lest it should serve as a hold in case of an attempt at capture. These men frequently carry a creese (dagger), which is fastened upon the right arm, with which they can strike a backward, and often fatal, blow; so that, considering the difficulty which would attend the detention of one of these gentry, even if laid hold of, and the dangerous nature of the formidable weapons with which they provide themselves, one is not apt to court a struggle at close quarters with such a foe. With the one in question went a bundle of clothes, which had been prepared by the sirdar bearer the night before, to be ready for his master's toilet in the morning, and a few trifles from the outer division of the tent. Even these losses were sufficient to cause some inconvenience; but when the day broke, and we heard of the more serious disasters of our neighbours, we congratulated ourselves upon having escaped so easily. One lady in camp had to bewail the loss of wearing apparel, trinkets, and Cashmere shawls; and all had to

recount either wonderful escapes or actual losses. We were not sorry to remove to Tamasabad, on the morning of the 11th, where we provided ourselves with a chokedah from the village, to keep extra watch during the night; as, after all, that is the only secure plan; for he being known to all the thieves, and in all probability one of their body, will not allow the master who pays him to be plundered. Here we were once more so completely drenched with rain, that our tents were unfit to bear a march; we therefore waited until the sun had in some measure dried them, and reached Gooseah on the morning of the 12th. Here, again, we consigned all our moveables to the care of the village burkundah, and slept in comparative security.

Feb. 12th.—This day the camp was filled with the venders of Mirzapore carpets, who readily spread their wares upon the ground for inspection. These carpets are often very handsome, closely resemble those of Turkey, and are extremely moderate in price. We saw one purchased for about 3*l.*, which was fourteen feet by sixteen; and a very large and well-made one

was sold for little more than 5*l*. Probably they might not be sufficiently serviceable in England; but in India, where none but the lightest shoes imaginable are worn even by gentlemen, and where servants and natives never wear shoes at all within doors, these carpets look very well, and answer the purpose admirably during the cold season. At Gooseah the country struck us as being extremely like many parts of England, no palms, cocoa-nut trees, or bamboos having been visible for some miles.

Feb. 13th. — This morning the encampment of a wealthy rajah presented itself; we understood that he is performing a pilgrimage from Bengal to Allahabad, there to wash in the sacred junction of the rivers Jumna and Ganges. Some of our party paid his camp a visit, and were treated with an exhibition of quail fighting. He had a great number of elephants in his train; one, only five months old, was a pretty little creature, and sucked a hand which was presented to it, as a calf would have done under similar circumstances. In the evening, several of the rajah's caparisoned elephants came into our camp, and were

mounted by those who had nothing better to amuse themselves with.

We now constantly meet with groups of Hindoos carrying small baskets, one at each extremity of a bamboo, in bangy-fashion; these contain bottles of holy water, packed in cotton-wool. It is from Allahabad, and is disposed of to Brahmins and padrés in all the villages through which they travel; the padrés in turn dispense it by the drop to their infatuated followers, who purchase it at an exorbitant price. We subsequently saw many hundreds of these pilgrims, and were often much struck with their curious appearance. The bamboos which they carried were frequently covered from one extremity to the other with a kind of pall, composed of red cloth; this again was ornamented in a variety of ways, often crowned with bunches of peacocks' feathers, chowries, and coloured flags, or hung with bells, rings, or tassels. No sooner did any of our Hindoo servants behold these travellers, than they raised a kind of chorus of salutation, both parties crying out "Bom, Bom Mahadeo!" This was frequently taken up by the European soldiers,



Madeley. lith. 3 Wellington St Strand.

PILGRIMS FROM ALLAHABAD.

and the holy greeting resounded from all mouths from the front to the rear of the regiment.

Feb. 14th. — Marched fourteen miles, to a place called Oogke Chuoke, and on the following morning advanced to Sydabad, over a flat but well cultivated country: on Sunday the 16th, we likewise continued our progress, having made a day of halt on the previous Thursday, and reached Joosey, where we again rejoiced to behold the Ganges, and on its opposite bank discovered the fort of Allahabad. The regiment was not to cross the river until the following morning; but as considerable inconvenience was apprehended in getting the baggage-elephants, and hackeries across, we determined upon making the passage on Sunday evening, thus securing to ourselves a halt on the next day. At Allahabad, the rivers Jumna and Ganges unite, and the spot is regarded by the Hindoos as one of peculiar sanctity; the sacred river is here most sacred, and even Benares must stand second to it in holiness. Here we again beheld thousands of pilgrims bearing water from the junction, and had

yet to witness Hindoo infatuation in its deepest colours; for Allahabad, whose name implies the city of God,—viz. "Ilah," God, and "Abad," the city, — were better called the city of darkness and of wretchedness.

After crossing the river, which at this time was intersected on every hand by sand-banks, we walked to the fort, which is a handsome building, and commands a view of both rivers, standing, as it were, upon an angle formed by them.

The fort is strongly fortified, and its outer walls are of great thickness, and upwards of fifty feet high; the officers' quarters are airy and cheerful, and those occupied as barracks are very good. The commandant's house is most agreeably situated, looking upon the river on one side, and on the other forming one side of the inner court of the fort. We walked on the ramparts, and ascended a dome which surmounts a handsome gateway; this, as well as the adjoining buildings, has been much strengthened and improved in later years by the government, and presents a very imposing appearance.

Near the entrance to the principal court we observed a huge stone pillar covered with Eastern characters; it is held sacred, and worshipped by the Hindoos. Beneath the outer walls of the fort we were attracted by the sight of a great number of straw-huts, or rather the choppers or thatched part of huts which were placed upon the ground: on approaching them, we discovered a perfect colony of fakirs, amongst whom were numbers of wretched and emaciated women, and filthy or deformed children.

One infatuated wretch we saw lying before a hot charcoal fire, totally devoid of clothing; his limbs seemed half roasted and shrivelled to the bone; his face bore the most ghastly expression: the upper part of it was rubbed with ashes, and his eyes were inflamed and sunken; his limbs, over which he appeared to have no control, were rubbed with cow-dung and river slime; and his whole person presented the most melancholy picture that can be imagined of superstition and ill-directed zeal.

Many others were equally bad: some had their nails growing through the palms of their

hands; many had wilfully distorted their limbs; as at Benares; the generality muttered prayers as we passed, and were, or feigned to be, absorbed in their devotions; one poor creature, who had renounced for this life the use of his tongue, perched himself like a monkey in our path, and made signs for food; in fact, much as we had heard and previously seen of these singular beings, we had hitherto formed no adequate idea of their wretchedness. We gladly hastened from them to a place where there was a curious figure of one of their divinities; and a better could not have been selected for that particular locality. It was a grotesque representation of Hunimaun, with Rama and Seeta, Luckmaun, &c., and beneath his distorted foot lay the vanquished form of the giant Ravana. These idols were formed in *basso relievo* upon the ground, in a little enclosure of a mud wall, and were attended by ministering Brahmins and devotees. Hunimaun, or Allumaun, is, according to Hindoo mythology, the monkey god who rescued Rama and Seeta from the power of the giant; and in the great annual festival of the Ramayana figures in a very distinguished

HUNIMÄUN, THE MONKEY GENERAL.



Ram and Seeta are in his left hand; under his right foot lies the evil spirit Ravanu, whom he has vanquished; and Kali is placed near his left foot.

manner. Even my Hindoo bearers laughed at this ridiculous picture of one of their deities; and though they salaamed with a certain degree of reverence, there was undoubtedly very little of devotional feeling mixed with their examination of the heathen god.

Early on Monday morning we set out to visit the Jumna Musjeed, and the serai of Prince Khosoroo. The former is well situated on the banks of the Jumna, but has, in itself, little worthy of remark; we, however, saw many more religious devotees, and were amused by watching a worshipper of heathen images, carefully sprinkling the most absurdly formed gods I ever beheld with holy water. We soon recognised some of our old acquaintances, but they were in company with at least half a hundred more; and the man laughed as he told us many of their names and attributes; for we could not refrain from ridiculing some of the most outrageously deformed. Nor do the Hindoos resent even openly expressed ridicule, — unlike the holy fathers at Aix and Cologne, where I recollect to have incurred their severe displeasure, by allowing a smile to follow the

exhibition of some of their innumerable, but sacred relics. Our Hindoo servants, many of whom had accompanied us thus far on our exploring expedition, here left us, to perform their devotions and ablutions in the sacred stream; for this they pay one rupee each to the government, and four annas, or about sixpence, to the Brahmin, who assists, and bestows his benediction on the occasion. One of our sirdar-bearers seemed highly delighted at having been able to cheat the revenue; as he said, that, by dipping a little below the usual spot, he had avoided the tribute, and had only paid four annas to the Brahmin. He would not on any account, he said, injure the padré, but he did not see any use in giving money to "John Coompany," a name by which the government is often designated. The same man had rigorously fasted for, I believe, upwards of twenty-four hours, and would not even then eat until after sun-set, although he acknowledged to us that he was extremely hungry.

We were greatly pleased with Prince Khosoroo's serai, and the burra bazaar adjoining it, and with the extensive gardens, in which are

erected three handsome monuments to the memory of several of the prince's family. We ascended a long flight of steps which led to a dome, surmounting the centre building, and found ourselves in a spacious vaulted apartment, which was at first in total darkness. Soon, however, a little light was admitted, and we discovered that we had roused from his slumbers a portly rajah, who had come hither to worship at the junction of the sacred streams.

After slightly adjusting his dress, the rajah accosted us with much politeness, and to our repeated apologies for having so unintentionally broken in upon his retirement, returned the most pressing invitations for us to be seated. We had then leisure to admire the elaborate carving which adorned the walls; and as our eyes became accustomed to the obscurity, we discovered beauties of which at first we had been totally unaware.

The rajah Petum Singh, for he was our host, presented us with pomegranates, atta, and orange flowers, inquired our destination, and promised to call upon us when he should arrive at Cawnpore.

After leaving him, we examined the other parts of the buildings, and traversed the spacious terraces which surround them. The tombs are in the lower apartments, which somewhat resemble cloisters. The gardens are neglected, and full of old fruit-trees and flowering shrubs. The servants of the rajah followed us, and insisted upon gathering many more oranges and limes than we could possibly carry; we, however, directed them to my palanquin, and into it they were at liberty to put whatever they thought proper.

From the gardens we once more entered the serai, which is very large, and surrounded by high turreted walls, on which is a chunamed terrace about fourteen feet wide. Four spacious gateways lead to the serai on the centre of each side, and its accommodations for travellers appeared very abundant.

After seeing these places, our guide took us to a well two hundred feet deep, to which we descended by a handsome staircase. Its height is divided into four stories, in each of which is a chamber; thus, be the water high or low, it can with ease be approached.

On the 18th we marched fourteen miles to Kailah, and on the 19th to Kooseah; from the latter place we advanced, near extensive fields of the white poppy, to Kurah. The poppies were at this time in full and luxuriant flower of the purest white; for as yet the season was too early for the milky juice to be extracted from the seed-vessels, which is not done until the flowers fall off. A very large serai lay near our road, and a ruined fort presented itself at a short distance. Kurah was formerly a place of some importance, but has been entirely destroyed amidst the many struggles which have distracted the country. A great number of Musslemaun tombs and mosques still remain, and increase its desolate appearance.

Feb. 21st.—Marched fourteen miles to Chouby ke Serai: road indifferent, and heat considerable; on the 22d we reached Noubaster ke Serai, where is a large Jain temple and a good serai; on the Sunday we enjoyed a halt, and on Monday advanced to Futtehpore, setting out at half past three, in order to reach the ground before the heat became too intense. The thermometer now stands about 90° in our tent at mid-day,

and is not often lower than 65° in the open air when we start in the mornings.

Near Futtehpore are more tombs than I recollect ever to have seen before in the neighbourhood of so small a place; but though we entered several, I did not see any of particular beauty.

We passed the colossal effigy of a heathen deity; it was raised upon a platform of about an elevation of six feet; the idol itself measured at least thirty, and was in a sitting position, and was supplied with many uncouth apologies for arms and fingers. Upon the whole, it was about as ugly a specimen of a deity as we had yet seen, although I think we afterwards beheld more hideous objects. On the ground, extended at full length, lay the prostrate form of the enchanter Ravana, of still larger dimensions, and more unnatural proportions.

Futtehpore is one of the many places in which the traveller is warned to beware, lest his horses should be poisoned by the dealers in leathern articles; as they are said to provide themselves in that manner with the skins of horses left dead on the march.

Village chokedahs were accordingly again in requisition, and no horses were lost. This, however, would have proved but a very insecure protection, had any attempt been made to destroy the animals, as it is done by mixing drugs with the food brought into the camp for sale, and would hardly have been discovered by the guardians of the night.

Wednesday, 25th.—Yesterday we marched to Nullah-Wah, ten miles; here the heat was considerably increased during the middle of the day; but in the evening several heavy showers, with thunder and lightning, cooled the air, and rendered our march of this morning to Aäing very agreeable. We are once more encamped in a thick mangoe tope, and the face of the adjoining country presents rich fields of barley and Indian corn. After two more marches, we shall reach Cawnpore, and anxiously do we now look forwards to the termination of our march. At Maharajapore our next encampment was formed, and on the morning of the 28th of February we entered Cawnpore.

CHAPTER VIII.

Arrival at Cawnpore. — Arranging an Establishment. — False Characters easily procured by Servants. — Inconvenience caused by Servants. — Treatment of Servants. — Remarks of a converted Hindoo on the general want of Veracity. — Some become Converts from Motives of Interest. — Habits of Life amongst the Anglo-Indians.

It was on a beautiful morning that we entered this place; the sun had not risen, when the appearance of a regiment of native cavalry on parade warned us of our approach to one of the largest military cantonments in the British possessions; a little further, and we came in view of the quarters occupied by another company's regiment of horse, which regiment was also at exercise upon the plain; then the horse artillery barracks appeared in the distance, and also those occupied by H. M. 16th Lancers, with the bungalows of the officers, the hospital, and riding school.

Having passed all these, we entered upon the public course, which in the evenings presents so gay a scene; and after having advanced about a couple of miles, we reached the infantry lines.

Not having as yet any appointed resting-place, I was set down in the compound of an acquaintance, who had kindly arranged that our tent should there be pitched, and we immediately set out in quest of a house. We were, however, unsuccessful in finding a suitable abode, but agreed to take possession of a small bungalow, until we could meet with one of more commodious dimensions. Accordingly, before evening, we were tolerably well established, — and on the following day, found ourselves surrounded by work-people of various kinds, as much was required to render it endurable during the approaching hot winds; but we were not destined to remain in it long; and as the Indian climate is quite bad enough without any aggravations, we may pass over them in silence.

Our next occupation was to discharge the supernumerary domestics whom we had re-

quired on the march, as well as the Bengalees, very few of whom wished to remain in service up the country; indeed, we generally found them very bad servants in the upper provinces, although the up country servants are considered less efficient in Bengal than the natives of that place. Their language also varies much, as well as their general habits of clothing and feeding. We had then to engage a fresh household, with the dissatisfaction of knowing, that, for awhile, at any rate, we should be tormented with the very worst of their kind, as the rogues and cheats invariably infest those griffs who are as yet unacquainted with their tricks and language. There is something droll in the ceremony of engaging servants in the East. Whilst lounging upon a sofa, or under the shade of a verandah, you are informed that an applicant has appeared for a vacancy, which may chance to have occurred in your household; the careless "ana, do" (let him come) gives acquiescence to his approach, and with profound salaams, the stranger presents a chit or note of recommendation from the last master or mistress he may have served, or sometimes

half a dozen chits: these may or may not be genuine, but I am inclined to think, that, in this case also, "griffs" are the most imposed upon, as they are not at first aware how easily a counterfeit can be obtained, either by being purchased at the bazaars, or by being borrowed, or hired from an accommodating friend. Sometimes you may chance to have the name and qualifications of a juvenile domestic designated and extolled, whereas the temporary possessor may be of middle age, and of the opposite sex. Once I met with a chit which purported to be written by a gentleman with whom I was acquainted, and whom I knew to be incapable of committing the egregious errors in orthography and style with which the chit abounded; his name, rank, and regiment were, however, correctly designated, and the date corresponded with the period of the officer's departure for the Cape; but the bearer was unaware of his return to Calcutta, until I despatched him with the forgery into his presence. The only secure plan is, to keep the chits in your own possession, and not to return them until the servant quits your service. But let me here say a word

against the cruel injustice of withholding a chit altogether, whatever be the misconduct which might tempt the master to inflict such a punishment; for if once fairly obtained, it is surely the property of the unfortunate being who may have served a good master well, but who, with feelings common to all mankind, may have been led to resent the unchristianlike conduct of a tyrannical and overbearing man. There is, I believe, a heavy fine for defacing or writing over a chit; but many a poor wretch has been sent adrift, without being able to prove the loss of one withheld or destroyed; and thus has lost the character which he had, perhaps, justly earned, and which was to him, as they feelingly express themselves, his "K,hana," or food.

In hiring servants, the preliminaries are few, should the chits be satisfactory, and the appearance and demeanour of the person be sufficiently prepossessing. The amount of wages being agreed upon, and every thing arranged, the stranger, in accepting office, not unfrequently steps immediately into the performance of its duties; and I have more than once seen a servant engaged and established during the

temporary absence at dinner of his predecessor, who, on returning, is greeted with the unwelcome sight of his successor. This does not appear either a just or a considerate measure, but it is the "dustoor," or custom, and that word has magic in its sound throughout India; besides, on the grounds of reciprocity, it may be palliated, as the natives are but too apt to cause the greatest possible inconvenience to their employers, by adopting an equally unlooked-for line of conduct,—occasionally walking off after the duties of the day are over, or to their mid-day siesta, with salaams and all the external demonstrations of obsequious attention, but perfectly determined to return no more: thus, when their arrival is anxiously looked for, a master or mistress may be completely at fault, an infant without its Ayah, or children without the servants appointed to attend to their various requirements.

Bad masters are sure to be served in this way; and we had the misfortune to be slightly acquainted with one family, who were almost always minus some of their household, and frequently without those who were most important

to their comfort. Ludicrous events sometimes occur from the unchecked violence of rage, and even females not unfrequently launch out into tirades of abuse which are certainly far from becoming. I one day saw a young married lady, who had not been exposed to the Indian climate quite long enough to form a sufficient excuse for her irritation, so incensed at a Khitmatgar for doing something, which, in her imperfect knowledge of the language, she had not known how to tell him not to do, that she hurled a volume which she was perusing at the man's head: fortunately for both parties she missed her aim, and the Khitmatgar, to my no small amusement, picked up the book, smoothed its ruffled pages, and, with a respectful salaam, returned it into her hand, merely saying that it was "khurab dustoor," bad custom.

Under such circumstances, it is evident that those in authority have themselves to blame for much of the discomfort which they experience. The heat of the climate, and luxurious manner of living, certainly induce indolence and irritability of temper; but I have no hesitation in saying that the inconveniences and annoyances

caused by the servants in India, rank next in magnitude to those occasioned by the climate, and add extremely to the misery of an Indian life.

True it is, that the wives of wealthy civilians, or of those staff officers in the Company's service, who are in the enjoyment of lucrative appointments, have no need to concern themselves with their *ménage*, and frequently leave the whole arrangement of their establishments to the Sircar *, who engages or dismisses the inferior servants at his pleasure; yet all are not so bountifully provided for, and the generality of Anglo-Indians are compelled to look into their own domestic arrangements.

With that branch, however, over which the Khansaman presides, she need interfere but little: he will make every purchase connected with the table and kitchen; and as the latter building is always detached from the main bungalow, it is scarcely ever entered by the lady or master of the house; but no mother would be justified in leaving her infants to the care of those women who call themselves Ayahs,

* Or writer.

scarcely any of whom, out of so many thousands, can be considered really worthy of such a trust. Under a parent's eye, many are good and comfortable servants; but what can be expected from those whose creed is to deceive, and who value themselves upon their ingenuity and perfection in the art.

The remark of a converted heathen to a Church Missionary preacher struck me as being particularly just. "You know not," he said, "you cannot comprehend, half the deceitfulness of our hearts. When you address us, we think not for an instant of making any reply, but that which we imagine you wish us to make; whatever have been our actions, our words, or our thoughts, we unhesitatingly deny them all to gain your approval; the very idea of truth is totally unknown to us."

The establishment of schools for the education of orphan or deserted children affords every chance that this class of female servants will be greatly improved, since by their means an excellent foundation is laid at an early age. There is one of this description at Cawnpore, whose bountiful and active patrons deserve a

far higher meed of praise than any remark of mine can bestow.

It is much to be feared that many of those adults who have renounced the Mussulmaun or Hindoo faith, in order to become nominal Christians, but actually pensioners upon charitable institutions, are not very remarkable for the sincerity of their professions; certain it is, that I met with two or three, and heard of more, who were distinguished for their entire neglect of truth, and added to their other vices that of drunkenness, since their creed no longer debarred them the use of fermented liquors. The same freedom from a powerful incentive enabled them to eat of our food, and from our dishes: consequently, they no longer hesitated to appropriate to themselves that which was not their own: these, and even crimes of a deeper dye, were the result of their having renounced their obligations to one faith, without having acquired obedience to another. To ourselves, these converted heathens appeared to unite the sins of all sects, and to feel themselves bound by no religious obligations whatever. These are, it is to be

hoped, extreme cases, but, I fear, not very unfrequent ones.

Nothing can exceed the ignorance and stupidity of the Ayahs in general, and it is some time before an English lady feels reconciled to trust her children to their management: they have, nevertheless, some good qualities: many of them are really faithful, and become attached to their infant charges; whilst others will be grossly careless, and, unless closely watched, will (like some bad English nurses) administer opiates clandestinely. On their first appearance, each morning, the heads of the family are greeted with the salaams of all the domestics, who assemble about the rooms and verandahs, for the purpose of receiving orders, or making known their presence. At this time of day all are awake, whereas a few hours later, in all probability, by far the greater number will be again wrapped in soft repose. The early drive before the sun has risen, the subsequent slumber, the bath and breakfast, follow each other in quick succession: the garden is, perhaps, looked into for a few minutes, or a walk in it preferred to the drive;

but, generally speaking, its beauties are left to be admired by the "Malee," who, however, never fails to bring its produce each morning. Fruit, vegetables, and herbs, according to the seasons of the year, are neatly arranged in baskets, and accompanied by bouquets of flowers, carefully selected, but somewhat formally disposed: these latter are consigned to the taste of the bearers, whilst the former are taken possession of by the Khan-saman, to reappear under different forms at breakfast, tiffin, and dinner.

About the breakfast hour, a good deal of animation generally prevails; the "gosht wallahs" vie with each other in the disposal of their meat, and bring baskets full of joints to the verandahs, — anxiously making the best bargains in their power. These are often accompanied by other salesmen, who present game of various kinds, wild or tame fowl, fish, &c. &c.; but from the month of April to the setting in of the cold season, unless an occasional exception occur during the rains, the entire bungalow is closed from the hour of the rising to the setting of the sun; not a breath

of external air must intrude, the tatties are fixed and watered, no ray of unshrouded light is admitted; and to a person who enters from the glare without, the bungalow appears for many minutes to be in total darkness.

This is, however, a luxurious period of the day: a glass of iced water or claret, having succeeded to the fish, eggs, and rice, the hands having been well plunged in cold water, and the toils of the breakfast-table over, the Anglo-Indian removes himself from the influence of one punkah to that of another, and, stretched upon a sofa, takes his hookah and his book. The children, if such there be, are by this time in a state of quiescence: each one, attended by its own bearer, has fallen asleep in the midst of its neglected playthings; the bearer continues to use the hand punkah, until he can carry his charge to the cold mat which is spread upon the allotted bed; a large punkah can then be pulled over several sleepers; the liberated bearers go to dinner or to repose, the Ayahs roll themselves in their chudders, and stretch their full lengths upon the floor around the children's beds, and throughout

the whole bungalow a delightful stillness reigns, save when the bhesties throw fresh water on the tatties, or some one, less indolent than the rest, calls to the punkah wallahs to pull harder.

Until three o'clock, visiters may, in general, find admittance; but after that hour, the tiffin being over, many ladies indulge in dishabille, and retire to their own dressing-rooms, where, extended on a sofa, they again lounge away the indolent hours, until the bath and toilet once more demand their attention: to these the drive again succeeds, and an eight or nine o'clock dinner concludes their day.

Amidst all this, the Dirzee appears to have been overlooked. This very useful person is seated in an apartment which is the least obscure, or, at most seasons of the year, on a verandah; a sheet is spread under him, on which are placed his work and implements; and to him is taken every article of wear, which can require a stitch or an alteration; to him the bearer takes his master's clothes, immediately as they are brought in by the "dhobie," and

before him the Ayah disposes her lady's or children's apparel.

Some of these men are admirable dress-makers, and imitate to a nicety whatever is set before them, although they are not very clever in original invention: their voices are seldom heard; the quantity of work they get through is very considerable; and it is only when the hour of twelve justifies their departure for awhile, that they are seen to creep noiselessly through the rooms. Nevertheless, upon these poor creatures some persons are disposed to vent much of their ill-humour; and, amongst the unlady-like occupations of the females in the East, that of scolding the Dirzee ranks, according to common report, as a daily and favourite occurrence.

CHAPTER IX.

Gaiety caused by the fresh Arrival of a Regiment. — Fine Assembly Rooms at Cawnpore. — Strangers pay the first Visit of Ceremony. — Theatre. — Amateur Plays. — A Church and a Chapel built by Subscription. — Excessive Heat during the Hot Winds. — A Tiffaun, or Sand-storm. — Baneful Effects of the Hot Winds. — A Famine and its dreadful Ravages amongst the Natives. — Native Marriage. — Brilliant Illuminations and Fireworks. — Bridal Procession. — A Flight of Locusts.

THE fresh arrival of a regiment at an up-country station gives life to all parties. Station balls and station dinners are given to the strangers; regimental balls and dinners are not forgotten; the compliments are then returned, and nothing but gaiety is for awhile the order of the day. The assembly rooms at Cawnpore are very handsome, and were the scene of several extremely gay and sociable balls, immediately after our arrival.

In the first place, strangers are expected to call upon the former residents; the gentleman of the family must therefore drive about for two or three days, leaving his card at the bungalows of all those whose acquaintance he desires; upon the heads of the station, and upon the officers of the various regiments. This done, and during the period of the hot winds, it is no moderate undertaking: his visits are returned (if a married man) by both members of the families upon whom he has previously called; after this the stranger and his wife must again set out to make another round of visits. In a large station like Cawnpore, a medium course is much more agreeable, and is generally adopted by those not desirous of constant gaiety.

At this period, amateur plays were much in vogue, and some of Shakspeare's deepest tragedies gave rise to many a hearty fit of laughter in lieu of tears. Major A——'s Lady Macbeth deserves to be immortalised.

The theatre and the assembly rooms form very conspicuous and handsome objects; they are well and centrically situated: but in vain did we at that time look for a Church; a Bun-

galow was appropriated as a substitute near the infantry lines, and divine service was performed in the riding school at the other end of the cantonment. Since then, a handsome church has been erected under the auspices of the present Bishop of Calcutta, who consecrated it, as well as a very pretty chapel of ease, in the early part of 1837. Both these were built by voluntary subscriptions, raised amongst the resident Civilians and regiments of the station, assisted by the Government, and by handsome donations from the Bishop and a few others. The cost of the former was computed to amount to twenty-five thousand rupees, or about two thousand five hundred pounds; whilst the latter was built for considerably less than one thousand pounds, — the expense being expected to be covered by seven hundred. During the hot months, service was very thinly attended: the troops were marched to church at break of day, or very shortly afterwards; but although many parts of the liturgy were omitted, and the sermons were in general very short; and although punkahs were kept in motion the whole time, and every attempt made to keep the building cool; before

the conclusion of the service the heat was generally perfectly intolerable; and after all, the men had to march home under a powerful sun. The evening service was, upon the whole, more endurable,—more especially as, at that period, men and officers were allowed to dispense with a few punctilios of dress, and thus enjoy a certain degree of comfort.

It was during the early part of our residence at Cawnpore, that a certain gallant brigadier, whose punctilious regard to military discipline was sufficiently well known, *once* incurred the danger of total annihilation, by entering the church bungalow during the time of prayers, when unfortunately his wandering glance discovered that a half-stifled *Sub* had, unwitting of his presence, ventured to allow a more free evaporation, by unbuttoning his jacket. This transgression called for reprehension, and received it accordingly in the next Garrison orders.

No sooner had the hot winds completely set in, than we had a splendid specimen of a genuine Nor-wester in full force. These tuffauns, as they are here called, know no half measures;

on they come, wrapping the whole face of the country in darkness, and spreading alarm and destruction far and near.

On this, the first occasion of our witnessing the visitation, our attention was drawn to it by the appearance of mountains of sand, which occupied nearly one third of the horizon: for awhile they seemed stationary, although, in fact, they were advancing with tremendous rapidity: the edges reflected the rays of the declining sun, and exhibited every variety of tinge. We gazed in astonishment; nor could we easily believe that what we saw was not a range of solid mountains newly sprung up at the command of that Almighty Being, who at the first had created the world. Soon they evidently drew nearer, and appeared like a rolling mass, which threatened to entomb us: we lingered as long as we dared: the phenomenon was new to us, and we were scarcely aware of its power. The doors and windows of the bungalow had already been secured by the servants; one only being held open in readiness for our ingress: the storm approached, and we ran for shelter into the house: at that moment I recollected

that a tame but imprisoned jackal, with which I had often amused myself, was exposed to the violence of the storm, and unable to escape; I hastened to secure it, but had well nigh fallen a victim to my inexperience: the tempest had already reached the compound, when I was literally pulled into the house by the servants; in an instant we were in total darkness, — the monstrous cloud was passing over and around us, driven on by an irresistible wind, which sounded like a continued peal of thunder;— it was truly awful!—not a creature stirred within the house: the Ayah was seated on the ground, with our infant on her lap, whilst I clung to the arm of my husband: had the last dread day arrived, my bewilderment could scarcely have been greater. The total darkness lasted on this occasion for about five minutes; the blackness then changed to a sandy yellow, which gradually died away. The compound presented the appearance of desolation; the trees were covered with sand, and many of their boughs were broken, while every article of furniture in the house bore witness to the visitation.

We saw many sand-storms during our resi-

dence in India; once or twice we were exposed to their influence in an open carriage, when it was only with the greatest difficulty that we could prevent an over-turn. One evening, the carriage of an acquaintance was blown into a ravine, and another had its pannels shattered by concussion with a gate-post. The anticipation of a storm during the evening's drive always cleared the course in a few minutes. If the Band happened to be playing, great was the hurry-skurry, — carriages driving off, buggy-heads hastily raised, gentlemen calling to their syces, mounting their steeds and galloping in every direction, whilst the musicians, nothing loth, seized each one his book and his instrument, and scampered away to his quarters. After the termination of a sand-storm, nothing was more common than to find the entire range of huts, which were occupied by the servants, totally divested of their "Chŏppas *," whilst the poor creatures in their interior were exposed to the violence of the storm; and in doors, when the announcement was made that a tuffaun was

* Thatched roofs.

at hand, and the servants hastened to secure each avenue, the children, terrified at the sudden darkness, would cling to their bearers or ourselves for protection; my first anxiety was to assemble them within my reach, and thus await the passing of the storm.

Tuffauns are often followed by a tremendous fall of rain, which is particularly acceptable, during this parched season, whilst the air is of a sickening heat; the atmosphere, however, after all, is not much cooled, as it sometimes literally rains *hot water.*

One evening, during the hot winds, we had prepared for a drive; the thermometer within the bungalow was about 89°, the sun had long been set, and we might have fairly hoped for some moderation in the external heat; great, however, was our disappointment, to find that in the verandah the quicksilver rose to 101°,— and this was after seven o'clock P. M.; whilst a strong hot wind was blowing. I need scarcely add, that we declined a drive on that occasion.

The hot winds usually continued to blow at Cawnpore until June, when a suffocating lull succeeds; — the tatties cease to be of any

service, — distant thunder is occasionally heard, — lightning flashes are seen on every part of the horizon, — a few clouds sometimes obscure the face of the sky, — and all nature seems gasping for a fall of rain.

This blessing is sometimes withheld for many weeks, but usually the rain falls towards the end of June: in the year 1837, the drought was awful, and the season passed away almost without rain; dearness of provisions, almost producing a famine, succeeded to this, and dreadful sickness every where prevailed. During the whole of the hot winds, a punkah is absolutely necessary throughout the twenty-four hours; for though the wind often ceases after sunset, yet the heat is still perfectly dreadful, even in the best and most spacious bungalows.

The sensation experienced by many persons is that of a rushing of blood to the head, and a painful desire to apply leeches to that part: on rising in the morning, a total weariness and languor of frame prevails, the limbs sink under their burden, and the European gasps for the external air.

I never saw the ravages of famine so dread-

fully displayed as at Cawnpore. A great scarcity having occurred in the interior, the poor Ryots, or farmers, were unable to support themselves and their families; the multitude of beings, who had been able to earn a scanty subsistence in the fields during other years, were at this time thrown out of employment; provisions became extravagantly dear; the failure of so many crops deprived them of subsistence, and wretchedness succeeded: it was then that thousands of these poor creatures sought the towns, and were seen crowding every avenue to the cantonments. Cawnpore was filled with them: those who had youth and health brought in their aged and infirm relatives — poor disabled creatures, who had for many years never left their hovels; disease and famine rendered them scarcely able to crawl along the parched roads, under an almost vertical sun, and, when arrived, they depended entirely upon charitable contributions for support. Under every wall, they assembled in crowds, taking up their position, and merely changing from one side of the road to the other, as the trifling shade afforded relief; and, thus esta-

blished, they kept up a constant moaning and crying, or, as passengers drew near, raised an urgent clamour for alms; their miserable appearance setting forth a claim which few could resist.

On three or four occasions, we passed the dead and dying stretched on the road-side: their attenuated frames bore but too certain testimony of the immediate cause of their destruction. One morning, we saw a poor wretch on the public road, who was still breathing, but so feebly, that it was evident his troubles were nearly over; a few miserable rags hung around him, but no one had lingered to see life depart, or to pay the last sad offices to the dead; he was only about half a mile from the cantonment, whither, doubtless, his fellow-travellers had passed forward, totally unmindful of his condition, but anxious to ameliorate, if it were possible, their own misery.

Another morning, we saw a human body slung across a bamboo, which two men carried on their shoulders: the head and arms were dangling on one side, while the legs hung down on the other, and her long hair (for it was the

body of a female) descended, filthy and matted, from her head. She was being conveyed to the river, into which the inanimate form would be carelessly thrown.

On each occasion that we saw the dead or dying on the roads, Pariah dogs and birds of prey were lingering near: they were, however, scared away by those employed by the authorities to convey the corpses from public view; for none others would approach them, as only those of the lowest caste would touch the body of the poor emaciated wanderer.

At length, when work was provided for all who were able and willing to labour,—thousands finding employment in the construction of a tank of immense size, and in the repair of the public roads, — the number of beggars considerably diminished: then were to be seen groups of the aged, and of infants, watching the movements of their more active relatives; the former exhibiting every disablement and disease to which humanity can well be subjected, but the latter active and naked, scampering about near their parents, or gambolling together, apparently forgetful of their recent privations. It was

during the extreme heat of the hot winds, that we were once attracted by the clamour of barbarous music to the residence of the Nawab of Cawnpore, one of the sons of that Aga Meer, who amassed so enormous a fortune when prime minister at the Court of Lucknow. On approaching, a scene of confusion presented itself: a bride was being brought home to the house of her betrothed, and every part of the house and grounds was illuminated; a myriad of little lamps were suspended upon "jaffries,"—a kind of trellis-work,—which was disposed in avenues leading towards the house, intersecting the gardens, covering every wall, and loading every tree.

Several tents were pitched, composed of various coloured cloths: these also were lined with the same little lamps; and, thus illumined, contained groups of natives seated round parties of Nautch girls, whose ever monotonous songs kept time to noisy tomtoms, vinas, &c. The grounds were thronged with natives and Europeans; fireworks were let off at intervals, and all was bustle and excitement.

The grand explosion of fireworks was not

appointed to take place until three o'clock A.M., but to that hour we did not feel disposed to remain.

After walking about for some time, and taking a view of the happy bridegroom, who was seated in a richly ornamented pavilion, superbly clad, surrounded by numerous friends, and occupied in chewing betel, we made our way through dust and crowds, to where the accoutred elephants stood. Many of their howdahs were composed of silver gilt, or silver exquisitely embossed, and of every variety of form and device; they were caparisoned in magnificent jhools, and some of them were remarkably handsome animals. Seeing that I was somewhat fatigued and oppressed with the heat, a native attached to the Nawab's household pressed us repeatedly to take seats on one of these creatures; we could have done so without difficulty, and I much regretted having declined the offer, as immediately afterwards the bridal procession was announced, and the elevation would have enabled us to gain a far better view of the passing scene.

At about ten o'clock, a few dozen spearmen

led the procession, and were immediately followed by the elephants, which fell into line along with others which had accompanied the bride; thousands of natives bearing blazing torches ran along, screaming and shouting the praise of the Nawab; then came the bride's palanquin, entirely covered with gold cloth, and costly ornaments; a small aperture admitted air: but even this must have been rendered unavailing, as a servant incessantly wafted a chowrie to and fro across the diminutive opening.

After hers, came an endless train of palanquins, containing the female relatives of the bride and bridegroom; succeeded again by others, in which were household servants; two or even three of whom sometimes found space in one conveyance, followed up by a dozen or two of doolies, containing the lower classes of attendants; three or four occasionally huddled together. All were veiled or hidden from public view. We were told that five hundred females were in the suite.

As the procession drew near to the bridegroom's house, fireworks were let off without

intermission, and the happy youth, who had not attained his sixteenth year, mounted a superbly caparisoned horse, and went forth to meet his bride, who was in her twelfth. A number of friends accompanied him; and led horses in abundance, and spearmen without number, composed his train. One high-spirited horse, terrified at the clamour of instruments, shouts, and fireworks, reared and fell over; the poor animal lay on its back for some minutes and appeared much hurt; it was afterwards raised and led away.

Many of the horses had trappings of immense value, their breasts and shoulders being completely covered with gold ornaments, and their heads richly adorned in a similar manner, or with inlaid gems. The saddle cloths were mostly of the same costly materials; and the hinder parts of the animals were covered with a coat of mail of similar construction.

Such a scene as that which we witnessed on that evening may have afforded an idea for the construction of a Ranelagh, or a Vauxhall but the want of arrangement in an Indian illumination totally destroys the beauty which

would otherwise exist. The lamps, though innumerable, were injudiciously placed, and devoid of form or regularity; the dust and confusion joined to the strong perfume of the hookahs and gunpowder were intolerable; and we returned home thoroughly fatigued and overpowered, with the noise of horns and drums.

The rejoicings which had already continued several nights were kept up with an increase of outcry until sunrise. Shouts, firing of cannon, barbarous music, and the discharge of fireworks were incessant; and little rest could they enjoy, whose residence chanced to be near that of the Nawab.

We visited the descendant of Aga Meer on the 27th of April. It was on the 26th of the following month that I was startled at seeing what at first appeared like a heavy fall of snow in immense flakes. As far as the eye could reach, the air was filled with similar objects, and at a short distance, these white substances when relieved against the dark foliage of the trees looked extremely curious.

On examination, I was surprised to find that the moving mass was a flight of locusts: on they

came in countless myriads, alighting in their progress and covering every inch of the ground; but it was as yet parched and without verdure, consequently these destructive insects could do no injury, and they made but a short stay in so barren a soil. The compound* seemed literally alive with them; and as the servants ran amongst them they arose in clouds.

Two or three were brought for us to examine more closely, and for that purpose confined under glasses; they differed very much from the locust of the Cape of Good Hope. These had long greenish wings speckled with black, and their bodies and legs were of a reddish yellow; when full grown they were much larger than any which I had before seen, many of them being at least three inches in length, but the generality of them were smaller. In half an hour not a vestige remained of our numerous visiters, save those unfortunates which had been captured by the servants to be made into curry.

* Ground immediately enclosing a Bungalow.

CHAPTER X.

Primitive Mode of thrashing and grinding Corn, and of baking Bread. — Demoniacal Conduct of the Fakirs.— Utility of Chunam. — Rapid Vegetation and Abundance of Fruit. — The Table much supplied with Vegetables, Fish, Fowl, and other Luxuries from England. — Hindoo Festivals. — Runaway Elephants. — Midnight Processions. — A Party at the Nawab Nizam Ood'owlah's. — Introduction of the European Ladies into the Nawab's Zenanah. — Splendour of Visir Bahoo's Dress and of her Jewels. — The Roguery of a native Jeweller. — Misconduct of some young military Men at the Nawab's Fête. — Abstinence of the Musslemauns during the Mohurrun. — Their bitter Lamentations.

This is one of the many instances in which we see the ancient usages spoken of in Scripture still practised. The Asiatic does not reject the locust as an article of food, and bakes his bread upon the coals in such manner as we may imagine the disciples of our Saviour to have done. We used to be much amused, in occasionally

watching a group of natives preparing their chappatties: they are unleavened, and beaten out between the hands until sufficiently expanded, then placed over a charcoal fire, which is contained in a little mud basin, or in a hole in the ground, and thus baked. In the upper provinces this is much more used as food than in Bengal, where the native invariably devours an immense quantity of rice twice in the twenty-four hours, if he be not too poor to obtain it.

In India the office of grinding corn is left almost exclusively to the women: between two stones they grind it, and sit with exemplary patience, for many hours, busied in that manner.

Pulse of various kinds receives the same treatment, and is very much used by the natives, when made into their much loved curry.

The native of India treads out his corn by means of oxen, which, however, are generally muzzled: the corn is carefully placed in a circle, on which the animals are made to tread, and by this means the grain becomes detached from the ear, and is hidden beneath the straw: no waste occurs, nor is the seed in any way



NATIVES OF THE UPPER PROVINCES OF BENGAL.

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injured; but the operation is a tedious one, and, like most other operations of husbandry in the East, very primitive. The corn is afterwards separated from the chaff by being thrown in the air against a strong breeze, or a substitute for the latter is made by two men holding a cloth, and fanning the corn which another man casts into the air.

"Take up thy bed and walk" might, without inconsistency, be addressed to the Asiatic, who, independent of a bed-room or cumbrous bedstead, places his charpiah* in the coldest spot he can select, in the external air, or in his hut, as the weather and space may best serve; and thus provided, rolls his chudder or his rissai around his person, head and face included, and sleeps away a large proportion of his time. These charpiahs are formed of bamboos, raised about a foot from the ground, and fixed together with cordage, a platting of which, or of coarse tape, forms the resting place. The hours allotted to slumber being over, the person on rising carries away the bed until again re-

* Charpiah, a bedstead without posts or tester.

quired. During the hot weather we often saw half-a-dozen of these little beds, placed side by side near the native huts, on each of which was extended a form so straight and motionless, that a stranger would have imagined them to be as many corpses, the faces, hands, and feet being entirely covered by a white sheet, rolled tightly round the form, in order to be a protection against musquitoes.

The native of India casts a linen cloth around his naked body; and being thus scantily clothed, prepares either to follow his master, do his bidding, or set out on a journey, by girding up his loins with his cumberbund.

One might imagine that the possessed with devils are manifested by the worse than demoniacal language and manners of many of the Fakirs. Mad with drugs and fanaticism, these unhappy creatures are sometimes to be seen rushing along the public roads, with matted snake-like hair extending in every direction, sometimes dyed of a reddish hue, and horribly disgusting; their naked bodies besmeared with chalk, or ashes, or cow dung, and their eyes glaring from their sunken

sockets like coals of fire. Sometimes they will stop at the approach of an English carriage, and (fortunately in a language tolerably incomprehensible to most persons) utter every imprecation which obscenity and hatred can suggest; then again dash forward, shrieking, leaping as before, yelling out their "mantras*," or invoking the prophet, according as they may be Hindoos or Musslemauns.

During the great religious festivals, these people abound in vast numbers, and at the fairs, as at Hurdwar, and others of the like description, they are innumerable. Some of these wretches distinguish themselves, by devouring the filth which is thrown up on the banks of the Ganges, carrion which none but the foulest of birds, the vulture, will contend with them for; even the corrupted remains of human beings are not too impure for them; and in proof of their disgusting feast, they appear in the bazaars and public places with human skulls and bones hung about their necks and bodies; making drinking vessels of the former, and gnawing the latter, until disgust, not

* Hindoo prayers.

charity, compels persons to give alms, that they may be rid of their abhorred presence.

This is no extreme case; it is one of frequent occurrence; and when a being of this description was a short time since discovered, in the act of devouring the remains of a human body, it was remarked, that his teeth were of the most ivory whiteness, and peculiarly good; this he accounted for by the nature of his food, and professed to have tasted none other for a certain number of years.

A Gossain, or Hindoo religious mendicant, took up his station near the public course at Cawnpore, where he remained exposed to every variation of temperature for nearly a year. He was constantly fed by his devoted admirers, and every want supplied. I know not if he had made a vow not to use his own hands in conveying food to his mouth or not, but the fact is, that we constantly saw persons perched beside him occupied in putting portions of food into his extended maw.

One day we remarked a man measuring his length on the ground, under a burning sun; he rested for a few moments, and we sent the

"syce*" to inquire whence he had come, and whither he was going. The answer set forth, that he had vowed to traverse the whole extent of India, from the northern boundary to its most southern point; but more probably, he was going either to Juggernaut, or to Benares, as it is to those places that this kind of pilgrimage is the most frequently undertaken. The motion of the traveller resembled in some measure that of a caterpillar, as he brought his feet up to the place which his extended hands had reached with extraordinary quickness. We understood that he had journeyed thus upwards of fourteen months.

Having become thoroughly tired of the small bungalow which we at first occupied, we gladly prepared to take possession of a much more convenient one of which we had become the possessors, but which at the time when the purchase was made required very considerable repairs before it could be rendered habitable. To accomplish this, about a hundred work-people were immediately assembled on the premises,

* Housekeeper.

consisting of men, women, and children, of various casts and denominations; the floors had to be relaid and chunamed, some of the walls required rebuilding, extra "go-downs," or store-rooms were to be constructed, bath rooms to be added, and, finally, an entirely new thatch to be put on; in fact, the bungalow appeared to need endless alterations and labour; it was, however, astonishing with what rapidity all was accomplished. We got into it in three months; but not until a violent fever had attacked and well nigh carried off my husband, who had exposed himself too freely in visiting the work-people, so that when we did move it was at considerable risk that he was conveyed in a palanquin across the short space which intervened between the two houses.

It was curious to watch the people at work on the floors as they sat in a long row, patting the plaster with little wooden trowels, until it became of a proper consistency. The manufacture of chunam involves many ingredients, of which I am not sufficiently informed to attempt a description. It furnishes a remarkably neat embellishment to an Indian house, for the construction of pillars, slabs, or mantel-pieces,

from its perfect whiteness and the fine polish which it receives; indeed it may almost be taken for marble at the first sight, but is of course fragile. The chunam at Madras is, however, very superior to that which is manufactured in Bengal, and is so durable, as in many cases to outlast the masonry.

The garden occupied much attention as soon as the rainy season commenced, for until that period little could be done towards its cultivation; but when once in progress, the rapid growth of vegetation in India soon repays the labourer. In a few months we had very tolerable produce; and before we left the station three years afterwards, every kind of vegetable and most descriptions of fruits were abundantly supplied from it.

The English strawberry is a rarity at Cawnpore, and care is required for its production, as the soil is more in fault than the climate. Nearer the hills, at Meerut and at Kurnaul, it is abundant, but in Bengal, it is I believe, never grown. At certain seasons, the fruit at Cawnpore is extremely abundant. Small sweet melons are brought from the Oude district in extraordinary profusion; grapes and peaches are in perfection

until the arrival of the rains; custard apples, guavas, mangoes, shaddocks, figs, dates, and a great number of less favourite fruits, are very plentiful, almost to the exclusion of the common English fruits, which consequently become luxuries. The apples from Cabul fetch a high price, and hermetically sealed gooseberries, currants, pears, &c. from England are highly valued. Limes, oranges, the citron, and the lemon, are in profusion at certain seasons.

English vegetables make their appearance towards the end of the year; green peas come in as Christmas luxuries, and most of the common garden produce crowd the tables until the hot winds again return; when nothing is left but the indigenous produce which the European is long in learning to like. Yams are, however, sometimes tolerable enough, and not much worse than a rather bad roasted potato; but the sweet potatoes are not much liked. With regard, however, to vegetables as well as fruit, the English resident turns to the supplies presented by the merchants, and does not think his table properly supplied unless the greater part of its load (for loaded it invariably is) be from his

native land: of these, carrots and peas are indispensable, and to them must be added sealed provisions of almost every kind, — fish, flesh, and fowl; even the turkey is to be had ready cooked with its accompaniment of oysters, &c., and no table is considered to be properly supplied without soups, and salmon, preserves, cakes, and comfitures of every kind and denomination from Europe. These are all to be had in a large station at the moderate cost of not much more than double their original value, although I have known English cheese of very inferior quality sold at the *reasonable* price of seven or eight shillings the pound.

From this it is not to be inferred that India does not produce articles which are not fit to be eaten; on the contrary, animal food of all kinds is excellent at Cawnpore, and the grain-fed "Gynee," or small bullock, and mutton, are delicious; whilst poultry of every description can be had for a mere trifle, and, if not sufficiently well fed for the epicure, when purchased, can be fattened by his own people at the smallest cost.

Fish, too, when in season, is very good; but

reasons, undoubtedly, exist, which may render its abstraction from the river Ganges a matter of serious objection.

The Hindoos abound as much in religious festivals as the Roman Catholics do in saints' days; but of the former, I think the "Ram Lelah" brings with it the greatest tumult, and continues rather longer than any other.

For some weeks before its commencement preparations are made in every part of the station, by erecting enclosures, in which is to be enacted the pantomimic representation of the abduction and subsequent release of the goddess Seeta. The festival continues about a fortnight, during which time fire-works and tom-toms are in constant requisition, horns, dholes, and the nobut, keep up an incessant clamour, and about sunset of each day some new divinity generally arrives on the scene of action. Towards the termination of the festival the plot thickens, and "Rōwna," or "Ravanu," makes his appearance. I know not how many heads the Hindoo mythology bestows upon this monster; but I generally saw him graced with eight or nine of the most hideous heads which

imagination can conceive, or hands execute. A multiplicity of arms and hands likewise falls to his lot, and each hand is furnished with some uncouth and nameless weapon. Bamboos covered with coarsely painted cloth and paper are used for the construction of all the images; but the monstrous form of the giant which sometimes towers from thirty to forty feet high, is filled with portions of gunpowder and combustibles of various kinds.

Repeated attacks are made upon him by "Rama" the husband of "Seeta" and his brother "Luckmaun;" but the assailing parties are constantly driven back until on the last day of the festival, when the brothers are assisted by the monkey general "Hunimaun" and his powerful army. This army, composed of some hundreds of creatures adorned with long tails, and wearing the most frightful masks, caper about and yell like demons; even they are often compelled to retreat, but at length gain the day, and by dint of constant firing succeed in igniting the giant, and the train once reached he is blown up with a tremendous explosion. An immense variety of curious

and splendid fire-works simultaneously issue from his body; and heads, arms, and weapons, tumble down in every direction.

After his destruction, all the other figures are burnt, as being of no further use, and the rescued Seeta, who is personated by a little girl, is conducted in triumph upon a superb palkie, and accompanied by her husband. These two little mortals have a fatiguing part to play, and must be well nigh smothered with the thick and incessant smoke and dust which they are compelled to inhale for so many days.

Thousands of natives assemble to view this festival; the wealthy upon their elephants, and followed by numerous suites, whilst the crowds on foot like a living mass extend in every direction. Hindoos, Musslemauns, and Europeans alike flock to witness this strange spectacle; and, as at our English fairs, multitudes of salespeople attend to dispose of their wares, especially of toys and sweetmeats. No expense is spared in the provision of fireworks and ammunition for the mock engagements, as the subscriptions which are raised by each native corps, and by the different castes of merchants,

artisans, &c. &c., are frequently very considerable.

On one occasion when mounted on an elephant, and having for some time watched the strange vagaries of the monkey army, we were anticipating the final catastrophe, and anxious to see it to the greatest advantage, we had caused the noble animal to be urged close to the barrier which separated the crowd from the field of action. Suddenly the explosion took place: our elephant wheeled round terrified at the blaze of light which dazzled him, and trumpeting with all his might, set of at full speed. His example was followed by several others; and greatly to our annoyance, we soon found ourselves carried away from the scene of action: in vain the mahouts scolded and threatened; the terrified beasts threw their trunks high in the air, and refused to obey their drivers. A child of a year old was with us in the howdah. I held her firmly grasped with one hand, whilst with the other I maintained such a position as enabled me to see the best part of the explosion: but my astonishment was great to behold the crowds of natives

unhurt beneath us, as the elephants made their way through the dense mass, fortunately, without injuring a single individual.

The night was quite dark when the explosion took place, and nothing could exceed the extraordinary effect which the strange wildness of the scene presented; the half demolished monsters blazing in many directions, flames issuing from their hideous heads and bodies, the vast concourse of spectators suddenly illuminated and become visible to a very considerable distance,' the elephants, camels, and spearmen rendering the scene so truly eastern, and the monkey demons rejoicing over their fallen enemy, leaping, shrieking, and throwing fragments into the flames, formed a *tout ensemble,* which must be seen to be duly appreciated. Long and tumultuous as had been the display on this the last day of the festival, a few minutes sufficed to clear the ground of natives, who quickly and silently dispersed. Few things can be more curiously interesting than the midnight processions of natives on various occasions, as their voices are heard at a distance, or a sudden turn in the

road brings a group of persons before you, bearing flambeaux and chanting a monotonous but not always tasteless melody; stately elephants, a crowd of spearmen, and probably a few native instruments add to the effect; for a few moments the adjoining walls and overhanging trees are illuminated, then midnight darkness again resumes her dominion.

March, 1835. The other day we received a card of invitation from the Nawab Nizam Ood'owlah, which curiosity induced us to accept, he being the eldest son of Aga Meer, and the inheritor of much of his wealth. About thirty people dined, and when we arrived, nearly the whole party were seated. The Nawab ran out to receive us,—he was superbly dressed; but unaccustomed to the society of European ladies, wanted the ease of manner which I have generally remarked in the Musslemauns. Unfortunately we had not sent Khitmatgars sufficiently early, and had neglected to go, "camp fashion;" for a distribution of plates, knives, forks, &c. had already taken place, and each servant who had not brought such things belonging to his own master had received them from the ser-

vants of the host, and was required to render an account of his own allotment. For such comforts, therefore, we were indebted to some friends near whom we sat; otherwise, had we dined at all, we must have adopted the eastern custom, and plunged our fingers in the savoury pillau. Loads of great dishes were crowded upon the table, but wretchedly ill served and very cold, as the tables had been spread at least an hour before the time for which the guests were bidden: for though we were nearly the last in arriving, we were not behind the appointed time, but others, more *au fait*, had taken care to be sufficiently early. Some splendid candelabras caught the eye, and a few massive silver dishes graced the festive board, but intermingled with a dozen or two brass candlesticks, such as would scarcely find entrance into an English servant's hall. Large and handsome mirrors were on the walls, but so dirty, that one would as successfully look for the reflection of one's person on the carpet as in them. All was thoroughly inconsistent: crowds of servants were in attendance; and a number of foot-soldiers drest like the company's cavalry were posted on all sides.

During dinner we heard our praises sung by a party of vocalists in extravagant terms, but were occasionally almost stunned by the noise of native music. The Nawab and a few other natives were seated at the table, composedly enjoying their hookahs, joining a little in the conversation, but eating not with the unbelievers. After dinner each lady was escorted by two gentlemen into an adjoining apartment, where, deposited upon sofas, they were left to each other's society; conversation, however, was out of the question, as the nautching parties immediately entered: the dancing girls shuffled about, and threw themselves into all imaginable attitudes, whilst three or four men made as much noise as they could, upon barbarous and most unmusical instruments; at the same time, too, that a full military band was playing with much animation, "See the conquering hero," or other equally enlivening strains on the verandah close by.

Well might we congratulate ourselves that this accumulation of sweet sounds did not last long; for the toasts having been properly disposed of, the band was allowed to retire to

quarters; the gentlemen once more joined their partners, and the generality of guests gladly dispersed; some however remained to partake of a midnight repast, and to witness a style of nautching, which is not exhibited in the presence of ladies.

On a subsequent occasion, when we again dined at the Nawab's, about a hundred guests were present, and the style was in most respects much superior. The entertainment was given in honour of the birth of a son, and was varied by the guests being admitted to the presence of her Highness the Visir Bahoo. After dinner the ladies of the party were conducted to the zenanah by the Nawab, who introduced us to his mother, and to a remarkably diffident young lady, whose accouchement had given rise to the rejoicings.

Reader, think not of Miss Pardoe's animated pictures of eastern luxury and elegance, in imagining the interior of the Nawab's haram. We were admitted into an apartment totally unadorned, and very hot. The elder lady conversed and conducted herself like a very respectable Ayah, and was clad in the simplest

garb; whilst the young mother sat by, totally unable to say a word, but sumptuously clad. She was literally enveloped in gold, and laden with precious stones; her ponderous ear ornaments, bracelets, anklets, tiara; her veil of gold tissue, ropes, tassels, and an infinity of chains, &c. &c., must have seriously incommoded her had she attempted to move: as it was, she sat perfectly passive, but with a childish smile upon her countenance. Her complexion was neither fair nor black, but of a sickly yellow tinge; her eyelids were blackened with henna, and her gums touched with the same hue; whilst the tips of her sallow fingers presented the most disagreeable appearance, from having been dyed red. Her infant was handed round upon something which looked like a plateau, but which proved to be the portable resting-place in common use in India; and was embroidered and fringed with gold. On the diminutive head of the child was a small skull-cap, set with diamonds and rubies; and its little body bore as much of ornament as its strength would bear. We did not remain long in the Zenana, but long enough to make me

rejoice when our departure was proposed. On making her adieu, each lady received from her Highness a haürs, which she placed round her neck; her handkerchief was sprinkled with atta, and, with many assurances that our presence had caused infinite satisfaction, we withdrew.

This interview over, we left the Zenana for the public entertaining rooms, and witnessed the exhibition of some very good fireworks. Dancing subsequently commenced, but few guests were disposed for the exertion.

A young scion of the house of Timour was particularly distinguished on this evening by the splendour of his dress; and from the gazing Englishmen received due meed of admiration. The natives, however, are always gratified by similar marks of regard, and ever ready to point out the most costly parts of their costume, draw attention to the largest stones, and hesitate not to mention their particular value in rupees. With them costliness is beauty; and they regard with especial contempt all articles of English jewellery, saying, that our gold is half brass, and worth nothing. Their

own gold ornaments are invariably made from the pure metal, or, at least, with very slight alloy; and they cannot conceive why we value so highly any thing which is not intrinsic, or which at any future period cannot be converted into money. On one occasion, when I had purchased a beautifully executed painting on ivory of the king of Delhi, and requested a native to say what it was worth, he merely poised it on his fingers, and estimated the weight of the gold in which it was set; saying, that such was its worth, for that a painting could be of no value. I once required a "sona-wallah," a goldsmith, to manufacture the setting of some brooches from English jewellery which I gave to him, and unfortunately threw into his crucible an old guinea and the fragments of a gold chain: the man and his underling converted the metal into bars, and the bars into blocks; but I saw nothing like the setting of a brooch appear; there was no end, they said, of brass; they could not work with so much alloy. At length, having contrived to reduce the mass from the weight of eight gold mohurs, to that of four or five, they threw up their work, and

told us that they could do nothing with English gold, and must have the mohur, or nothing. The fact was, that the rogues had contrived to extract the pure metal, notwithstanding our constant vigilance, and had each day substituted in its stead a portion of alloy.

But we must leave these knaves to their misdoings, and look again towards the Zenana, where the conduct of some young English officers was more distinguished for gallantry than discretion. Anxiously desirous of a peep into the females' apartments, some of them attempted to enter along with the ladies, and had actually passed the first guards, before they were observed; it was necessary, however, to cross a small quadrangle, between the first and second barrier, but this being illuminated with a profusion of lamps, brought their red coats speedily into notice, and they were instantly required to withdraw: but not before the outer guard had been made aware of their intrusion, who in place of fire-arms had provided themselves with water-pots, which they unceremoniously emptied upon the backs and shoulders of the delinquents. For the credit of my

countrymen, I would fain forget other follies committed by some thougthless young fellows, who considered their sable entertainer fair game, and found amusement in cutting the table cloth during dinner, peppering the trifle, or salting the blanche-mange; who refused to take a second glass out of a bottle of champagne or beer, and turned every thing connected with the arrangements into ridicule; who because they were the guests of a native, thought proper to forget that that native was a gentleman, who had done his utmost to secure their entertainment, and had feelings susceptible of an insult. It is painful to reflect that a few thoughtless youths should, in a country which is only held by the force of arms, bring discredit upon that body which is so important and influential.

The "Mohurrun" followed closely upon this entertainment, and the mirth of thousands was changed into fasting and prayer.

During the Mohurrun all pious Musslemauns fast with great rigour: there are, perhaps, none so unobservant of this rite as to allow it to pass without some abstinence; and this

continues so long, that its effects often become visible in the wan and lengthened countenances even of household servants; for their sakes, therefore, we always rejoiced at its termination.

Mrs. Meer Hassan Ali, in her "Observations on the Musslemauns of India," gives a remarkably interesting account of this fast, and of the extreme abstinence which she witnessed, as practised by those with whom she lived in habits of intimacy. Few persons have had the opportunities which she had, of remarking upon the private lives and dispositions of the higher classes of native females, as she resided for some time at the seat of government at Lucknow, and though an European by birth, is married to a native of India.

During the Mohurrun, little booths are erected on the road-sides, and at every corner, where the rich dispense sherbet to the poor, and where each way-farer is pressed to partake of this cool and unfermented beverage.

I believe it is in general quite unmixed with ardent spirit of any kind; but I was once somewhat disturbed at seeing a remarkably well

conducted female servant of my own sadly overpowered with its effects.

The Bhestie had, as usual on this occasion, been dispensing his sherbet at the gate of our compound with a most liberal hand, and the poor woman had been tempted to taste and taste again, the consequence of which was, that when the Ayah called her in the middle of the night to one of the younger children, she, unconscious of her actions, rushed headlong into the room: a large easy chair chanced to impede her progress, when no doubt an idea seized her, that it was in some manner connected with the cause of her being summoned. She clasped it in her arms, and attempted in vain to carry it; but succeeded in advancing a yard or two, when down she and her burden fell; again and again she tried, each effort was more resolute than the last, and the poor woman was every moment sprawling on the floor. It was in vain that all present entreated her to leave the chair alone; actions, words, and laughter were alike unavailing: she was not to be diverted from her purpose, but still tugged at the unwieldy chair; until at length we sent for some person to carry her to

the verandah where she might sleep off the effects of the Bhestie's religious zeal.

On the last day of the Mohurrun, all is bustle and excitement, and the tazees are to be carried to the place of interment.

Some of them are beyond measure beautiful; and I have attempted to give an idea of one in an accompanying sketch, but the light glittering texture of which they are fabricated cannot be done justice to in a drawing. Many scores of these mimic representations of the tomb of the grandsons of Mahomet are to be seen on this day: all are considered to bear some similitude to each other; but their adornments and colours are so varied, that they seem to be more the offspring of the fancy of many individuals, than the copy of one original design. They are carried on the shoulders of hundreds, and are accompanied by countless numbers of natives, many of whom carry banners and curtains of various forms and colours, on the summit of which, the Sheah sect display the extended hand as an indication of the five holy members of the prophet's family; whereas the Soonees exhibit three fingers only.

Unfortunately many have been the quarrels and serious contests to which this division in their creed has given rise; and to such a pitch of violent sorrow do they sometimes work up their feelings by their shrieks and lamentations for the death of Hossein and Houssen, that blood is not unfrequently shed on the evening of the last day, when the Sheahs fall upon the adverse sect as the murderers of those holy martyrs. The tazees are not unattended with musical instruments, and numbers of every kind are in requisition. The various classes of Musslemauns are dressed in their peculiar garbs; the more wealthy natives accompany the procession on elephants and camels, whilst the names of Hossein! Houssen! Hossein! Houssen! fall from every lip in accents of deep lamentation; at the same time they throw their hair into disorder and beat their breasts with extreme violence. For a while they seem plunged into the most absorbing grief; tears roll from their eyes, and a stranger would imagine, that some new and overwhelming grief had recently fallen upon the country.

We frequently saw the Musslemauns at prayer

on the "meidan," or open plain near the grand parade at Cawnpore; as if they chose that most public part of the whole cantonment, in preference to any more secluded spot. With their prayer carpet spread beneath them, they knelt, stood, or bowed their faces to the ground at certain intervals, and to all external appearance totally absorbed in their pious occupation, allowed all passers by to go on unheeded and apparently unseen.

CHAPTER XI.

Ostentatious Habits of the Natives of India. — Their Propensity for lying. — Thuggee. — Its Origin traced to the earliest Times. — The Goddess Kalee the Patron of the Thugs. — The Exhibition of the Devourer of a whole Sheep. — Melancholy Reflections produced by witnessing the great Religious Festivals. — Self-inflicted Tortures of the poor Idolaters. — The Suttee nearly abolished. — Destruction of Female Infants still practised by the higher Order of Hindoos.

I CERTAINLY think there is much of ostentation in the Indian character, so much is entirely "dek, hna waste" for show. In their religious processions, marriage feasts, and funerals, pomp, show, and noise, are their chief study. On the occasion of a betrothal, we once saw five hundred coolies and young children engaged in carrying presents, besides the elephants, which were laden with various articles of clothing, sweetmeats, and rupees: many of the coolies carried merely a single half dead

chicken in a wire or bamboo cage, or conducted a half-famished kid, but it was in order to swell the procession, that each trifle was thus separated from its fellows. During one of the Ram lelah festivals, a native of wealth, called Aza Mallee, took a fancy to my little girl, who chanced to be with me upon an elephant, and after a few compliments promised to send her some playthings on the next day; when, accordingly, a sircar made his appearance, followed by six or seven coolies, each bearing a basket of toys. In a few moments the verandah was literally covered: many of the playthings were pretty and even *recherchés*, but the generality of them consisted of little clay figures, — guns, pistols, and household furniture of every description in miniature, and of the same material. During the Hindoo festival of the Hoolee, the people delight in besmearing each other with powdered mindee, throwing it at each other in handsful, and priding themselves upon the quantity they carry on their clothes, as well as upon that which they bestow upon those around them; nor will they change their linen until the festival is at an end; the consequence of which is, that every one is

to be seen covered with red powder, and parading as if proud of his filthy condition. Once on the occasion of a ladies' bazaar at Cawnpore, a party of natives entered the rooms, followed by such a tribe of servants, as would undoubtedly have been excluded, had not the object of the bazaar been to raise a sum for the relief of the orphan children of the unfortunate people who had perished during the famine in the province of Bundlecund; the price, therefore, of the admittance to the Nawab's suite was the same as to others, and they accordingly entered. Amongst them were Africans of the darkest dye, clad in Cashmere turbans and shawls; and many bore baskets for the reception of such trifles as their masters should purchase.

The Nawab and his friends seized upon every thing which struck their fancy, although in many cases they were totally at a loss to comprehend the use of the various articles which were presented to their notice; then, as if to show their disregard, at once, of ladies and of rupees, they carelessly threw their money on the counters, not deigning to give it into the hands of the fair sales-women. Not-

withstanding their *brusquerie*, these Indian princes were no doubt very acceptable amidst the labyrinthine stalls of the ladies' bazaar; for they paid most liberally for every thing they purchased, and when, towards the close of day, an immense quantity of *rubbish* still remained undisposed of, an accommodating native consented to give it all house-room for the small sum of a few hundred rupees.

But if ostentation strike a traveller as a marked trait in the Indian character, I fear the vice of lying is not less glaring; neither must the keen desire of revenge be overlooked. Long and patiently will some natives wait for an opportunity of gratifying the latter propensity, and many lamentable events have resulted from this feeling. Strange, therefore, is it, that masters will still continue to ill-use their servants, when even the very feeling of self-interest ought to lead them to exercise more self-command. To drug the hookah is by no means an unusual or a difficult operation, and the unconscious smoker may inhale a sleeping draught when he least expects it, or an intoxicating drug, which sends him reeling to his

quarters, without having been guilty of any actual excess.

But what can be said of Thuggee, that most demoniacal of all their infatuations, carried on as it is under the firm conviction, that the perpetrators of the most horrible murders are under the especial protection of Heaven?

On our march from Chinsurah, we encountered a body of these wretches, who having been apprehended and fully convicted, were then under sentence of hard labour for life; at this they loudly murmured, saying that their ancestors had all been Thugs, and if convicted had been hanged; why then should not they likewise be allowed the same indulgence?

At Cawnpore one day we saw a considerable bustle in a thoroughfare near the cantonment, when on inquiring the cause, we were informed that a wretch had been discovered who had tempted children into his den with the promise of sweetmeats, and who had already acknowledged the murder of seven or eight. The people in authority, and mere spectators, were running in crowds to behold this monster; he, however, kept them at bay for a length of time,

for, being armed with an axe, he was a dangerous opponent. His appearance was that of a Fakeer, and divested of clothing, his beard and matted hair alone covered his neck and shoulders. At length some people succeeded in getting upon his miserable hut, whence, by means of long spears and sharp instruments, they succeeded in forcing him, and he rushed out covered with blood, to be pinioned, and receive the reward of his crimes.

The origin of Thuggee is dated by the Hindoos from the first creation of the universe; a destroying power being necessary to counteract the otherwise overwhelming power of the creative being. The goddess Kalee is especially intrusted with this diminution of the human species, and for ages was supposed to protect her votaries from established laws, herself disposing of the murdered bodies, by transporting them mysteriously from the surface of the earth. In these later days it has appeared that her worshippers have incurred her anger by watching the method of this transportation; for which reason she has withdrawn from them her protection, and

though they still continue to worship her, and to fulfil her behest, she no longer removes the slaughtered victims, and her followers are consequently open to conviction and punishment. There are a few sects whom the Thugs dare not sacrifice to their goddess; amongst whom are Nautching women and men, Dhobees, Fakeers, diseased or maimed persons, and a few others. Each year has lately brought to light more instances of this horrible rite; but we may now hope, that the vigorous measures which have been used will be of avail, and that Thuggee may shortly rank amidst the bygone stories of our infancy, (although more authenticated,) and take its station on the shelf with Jack the Giant-killer, and Little Red-riding-hood.

At the same time that the discovery of a Thug, in the person of a Gooroo, interested the lovers of the horrible at Cawnpore, a wholesale murder of unparalleled atrocity was detected in a neighbouring village; where a man with his own hands took away the lives of eighteen women in a fit of rage, at being taunted with the marriage of one of his relations to a woman of low

caste. Fourteen were said to have expired before assistance reached them, and the remainder died subsequently, of the wounds which he had inflicted.

Much has been said by late writers regarding the loathsome exhibitions which constantly occur at the great annual fairs in India, amongst which the sheëp-eater's unnatural performance has become one of frequent occurrence.

For my own part I never felt tempted so much as to visit Hurdwar, although it was within an attainable distance, nor should I ever feel disposed to regret that I failed to be a spectator of the disgusting exhibition which took place at Lucknow before many thousands of spectators, when the devourer of a living animal indulged his horrid propensity.

The creature was attended as usual by that high priest of wickedness, the Gooroo, who alike blesses the immolator of hüman life to the slaughter-loving goddess Kalee; and by his presence encourages the sheep-eater to believe, that the deities will smile upon and receive his blood-offering. In fact, it is to his spiritual assistance, that the poor ignorant spectators at-

tribute the capacity of the man to digest his horrible repast.

I have lately met with an account of this exhibition, in a work written by Major Bevan, entitled "Thirty Years in India," which, though not given as being himself an eye-witness, coincides so exactly with what I have always understood to be the circumstances attending the show, that I am tempted to extract it nearly from recollection.

"When the day fixed for the filthy exhibition had arrived, the sheep-eater and his Gooroo appeared on the ground with two sheep. When a signal was given that the spectators were ready, he threw one of the animals on its back, strangled it in an instant, tore away with his teeth the skin from the chest to the flank, and taking out the bowels, thrust his head into the carcass to drink the blood. During this operation he used to lift his head with cannibal satisfaction, and exhibit it to the spectators besmeared with gore. He then tore the flesh from the bones, which he picked as clean as if they had been scraped by the sharpest knife. In this manner he has been known to devour at a meal a sheep of

thirty pounds' weight. He concluded by chewing some cathartic herbs, and rolling himself upon the ground, more like a gorged boa-constrictor than a human being."

The Dewāllee festival is one of illumination; and is held in honour of Luchmee, the goddess of wealth. On this occasion, every Hindoo covers the front of his dwelling with glimmering lights, and children rejoice in an enormous acquisition of the gayest playthings and a prodigal supply of bazaar luxuries, in the shape of sweetmeats of every description.

Being aware of the gross idolatry and utter darkness of the Hindoos, it is impossible to behold their religious festivals without a feeling of awe. When we see the countless myriads of human beings still bowing before the shrines of their imaginary deities, and still plunged in the lowest depth of superstition, how shall we reconcile to ourselves the apathy which is still felt in Christendom, as to whether they become regenerate or not, and whether the bright light, which shines on our favoured land, be, or be not, also extended to the benighted Indian?

When we see with what zeal they worship the gods of their idolatry, are we not stricken with compunction? When we consider what they undergo in their penances, and in their horrible and disgusting rites, in order to obtain an immortality of happiness, and to propitiate their gods of destruction, and the spirits of darkness, will not the thought sometimes come home to us, how much less faithfully we perform the great behest of our merciful Saviour, who commanded his disciples "to preach the Gospel to every creature?"

How much remains to be done, let the festivals of which I have spoken testify, and many more there are with which I had no opportunity of making myself acquainted. At the "Doorga Pooga" what sufferings, what tortures, do the poor wretches undergo? and under the walls of Allahabad and Benares what acute pain and self-inflicted misery are the results of pagan darkness?

True that the suttee has now become a thing of rare occurrence, and never fell under my own observation; my husband, however, had once the melancholy scene presented to him.

and beheld the half consumed form of a wife clinging to her deceased husband. The woman was young, and might have lived to see many days, and embrace a happier creed; but her doom was sealed, and at the moment my husband approached, he saw the scalp crack, and sever from the yet almost living being.

That female infants are still destroyed in many parts of India by the higher order of Hindoos, is, I believe, an acknowledged fact; but this distinction arises not from motives connected with their religious faith, but from the fear, lest by forming matrimonial connexions with those of lower caste they should bring dishonour on their own class. To effect this horrid purpose, it matters little if the babe be smothered in milk as soon as born, or with a refinement of cruelty, be placed in a mother's arms, only to draw death, instead of life, from the breast, which has previously been rubbed and saturated with opium.

CHAPTER XII.

Expected Visit of the Commander-in-chief. — Bustle in the Camp. — Delight of living under Canvass in fine Weather. — Grand military Evolutions at Cawnpore. — 10,000 Men on the Field. — Savage Nature of the native Horses. — A fatal Accident the Consequence.

I GLADLY turn from these scenes of human misery, and moral degradation, to the gay military spectacles which crowned the latter end of the year 1836, when the Commander-in-chief visited Cawnpore. Brigade field days were then the order of the day; and with a battalion of European artillery, two battalions of golundaz * and two brigades of horse, two regiments of native cavalry, H. M.'s 16th lancers, and 16th infantry, and seven regiments of native infantry, our gallant Brigadier had ample opportunity of displaying his military skill.

In order to be near the field of action the infantry regiments were encamped on a spacious

* Golundaz, Native artillery.

plain, at a distance of two or three miles from their lines; and as at that season the weather is generally faultless, we rejoiced in a morning and evening drive to the camp.

Who that has contemplated a vast plain thickly studded with tents, dazzling by their snowy whiteness under an Indian sky, can ever forget the sight? During the short interval of a single day, or even a few hours, a city seems to spring up. The flag which denotes the commanding officer's tent generally stands pre-eminent; those of the men are arranged in lines, according to their companies, and near them are the officers' tents. The one appropriated to the mess is usually very commodious, and is replete with conveniences and even luxuries; for not only the mess library but occasionally the billiard table finds its way into camp.

The hospital establishment stands a little removed from the rest; and round a long white pole, which marks the bazaar, are assembled salesmen and women of every description. Early in the morning, this place is thronged; and whilst the natives squat by

their little baskets, and the European soldiers are engaged in cheapening their goods, they gesticulate and chatter like so many monkeys. At that time, too, the "gosht wallahs" hurry from tent to tent, and the entire camp is in motion. Officers on duty go their rounds, and non-commissioned officers hand in their reports; a parade under the adjutant, or a sergeant's drill, give occupation to certain portions of the different regiments; or perhaps the whole strength of each is out, and on the eve of a general inspection.

One would not readily imagine how much comfort may be enjoyed under canvass during the cold season, either when the tent is closed against the external air, and cheerfully lighted for the evening's repast; when the brilliant colours of its painted cotton walls are fully displayed, and the servants spread the table with every usual and oft-times elegant appendage; or, when opened on each side to admit the cooling breeze, the occupant sits in a thorough draught, with no fear of rheumatism before his eyes; and reads, or lounges, or sleeps, as taste or inclination may dictate.

We have passed many happy days in a tent, and often do my thoughts revert to them as to a period of quiet excitement (if such a term be admissible), yet it was so; when each dawn saw our movable tenement fixed on a different spot, and ourselves a few "kos*" further on our journey. Sometimes when it was pitched near the sacred stream, we wandered along its banks, scaring a host of vultures from their prey, or alarming a sleeping alligator; at others, when encamped under a grove of mango trees, we emerged into the bright moonlight, and seeking the interior, found ourselves in the midst of almost endless cotton-fields. Once I recollect being astonished to discover a multitude of sand-hills, from four to six or eight feet in height which had been thrown up by those busy little operatives the ants; and on more than one occasion, when unwilling to forego our evening's stroll, we had rambled far without considering that the light of day was not to be immediately replaced by a tardy moon, we were compelled to retrace our steps

* Kos, about two miles.

to the camp, guided only by the distant watch fires, and when arrived, had to enter upon a difficult search after our own tent; stumbling every moment over tent pegs and ropes, or narrowly escaping too close contact with the slumbering camels and bullocks.

True, that every one would not extract happiness from the obligation to rise each morning, in weather fair or foul, at the untimely hour of two or three; but even to that I objected not, for the motion of a palanquin is very inducive of sleep, and the few dark hours which might intervene between that of starting and of day-break were easily thus whiled away; or if not, there was always something in the wild grandeur of the scene which pleased and gratified me. The momentary glare of torches in various directions, followed by the blackest darkness, the cavalcades of elephants and camels winding along in slow rotation, and the picturesque groups of natives crouching around their little fires, were always objects to attract and amuse. There were generally some pretty mosques or curious relics, which we could examine or perhaps sketch on the line of march;

and if nothing better offered, a tank or a serai. I seldom failed to be *en route* before the regiment, thus enabling the bearers to keep in advance of it; unless, indeed, when the roads were very bad, and they were compelled to rest frequently from their laborious task. True, that our slumbers were sometimes broken by the roar of the angry camels whilst being laden, or by the sonorous voices of the elephants, or the shouts of the "hackerie wallahs," preparing for the march.

One tremendous night, our ears discovered, amidst the roar of the elements, the exclamations of some friends in distress; the pole of their tent had broken, the tent itself had been blown over, and themselves exposed to the violence of a pouring rain and irresistible wind. In their trouble, they sought and obtained shelter under a friendly canopy. It is equally true, that we were constantly in dread of thieves, who were so daring, as to obtain ingress into the most strictly guarded tents. One night they despoiled a lady of her box of trinkets; an officer of the clothes, sword, &c. which had been placed in readiness for the

early toilet, and worse still, they entered a tent where sixteen soldiers were sleeping, and carried away the bayonets from a stand of arms which was in the midst of them

But we have wandered far from Cawnpore, and its martial array. At the period of which I speak there were upwards of ten thousand troops in and near the cantonment, and gladly would I describe the glories of the sham fights, and brigade field days which even the ladies were enabled to enjoy. Several times we were out before the first dawn of day, and proceeded to a place called Savadah, which is now occupied as a school for the orphan children from Bundlecund; and from thence we obtained a complete view of the field.'' This was a strong hold, and defended by artillery as well as infantry. The firing was tremendous; the enemy were several times repulsed; but at length the place was carried, and the men driven from their guns, amidst the shouts, and I must add, laughter, of their assailants. It was a splendid field for the beautiful evolutions of the various troops; for the light infantry skirmishing, the firm and compact

square, and the impetuous charge of cavalry. Never did I, before, or since, witness military movements on so large a scale; but after all, it was only playing at soldiering. How different, and how dreadful, must be the field of real slaughter! The greater part of the troops present at that time have since marched through toil and danger into Afghanistan; numbers of them have been carried away by disease and the effects of climate; a few by the ravages of war: but the surrender of Giznee bears testimony to their valour, and proves, that the hearts of brave and resolute men beat under the gay attire of the soldier on parade.

There was, however, an alloy even amidst the gay field-days of this period. Accidents frequently happened, more especially amongst the artillery; and the number of loose horses, which (having thrown and perhaps disabled their riders) scoured the plain, rendered the field one of occasional danger. One morning our attention was drawn to a group of persons who had collected round the extended and mangled form of a young officer, whose horse had been attacked by one which had broken

from the artillery. The infuriated animal, under the combined influence of rage and fear, threw down and dreadfully injured the horse on which this ill-fated youth rode; the agonised animal rolled upon his rider, who might still have escaped with life had not the other seized him with his teeth, and knelt upon his body, thus inflicting several ghastly and mortal wounds: his skull was fractured, and no hopes could be entertained of his recovery; nevertheless he was carried to the hospital, where we afterwards learnt that he lingered for five days in a state of insensibility.

Several other accidents arose from similar causes, but none that I recollect had so fatal a termination.

On the return of the regiments into cantonments, one of the largest balls of the season was given by the station to the Commander-in-chief. The spacious assembly rooms were filled with a gay and glittering throng; the admirable bands of the two Queen's regiments were of course in requisition, and the endless variety of uniforms worn by the officers of so many different corps imparted a brilliancy to the fête which is not to

be seen in our dark-coated assemblies at home. We entered the rooms at about half-past ten, but had contrived to be most unfashionably early; soon after eleven, however, the dancing commenced, and the midnight supper tables were crowded by several hundred guests.

CHAPTER XIII.

Want of Rain. — Prospect of another Famine. — Dreadful Sickness and Mortality amongst the Troops. — Universal Dread of the Cholera. — Failure of the Crops. — Appalling Heat. — Two Years' Leave of Absence. — Sale of Bungalow and its Effects. — Preparations for a Voyage down the Ganges. — Farewell Visits.

HAVING experienced the heats of three summers in India, my husband applied for leave to do duty at Landour during the year 1837; but though his application was very favourably seconded by a recommendation from his commanding officer, and duly forwarded by the General of Division, it somehow happened that no answer whatever to it was returned; with much unwillingness, therefore, we prepared to pass another hot season at Cawnpore, and, as it afterwards proved, the very worst which we experienced in the country. During the season for tuffauns we encountered two or three of surpassing violence; one of which kept us in almost

total darkness for upwards of half an hour; and when the period for the much wished for rains arrived, no salutary shower whatever moistened the scorched up plains. A dreadful famine again impended over the land, and cholera, fever, and dysentery, attacked the troops with irresistible fury. During the space of a very few weeks, many brave fellows were carried to their last abode, and scarce an evening passed, that the mournful notes of "the dead march" were not heard, as the mortal remains of some poor victim were carried past our bungalow. Even very young children were attacked by cholera in an unusual degree, and sad, indeed, were the accounts which were each day issued from the military hospitals. At the cavalry lines the sickness was even greater than amongst the infantry; and I recollect hearing of a young man whose duty had brought him on several funeral parades kneeling down and offering a prayer to the Almighty that he might be seized with cholera, for that the suspense and dread of the disease under which he laboured was intolerable. On the following sunset he, too, was carried to the tomb. Many and heart-rending

were the losses which families sustained. Two young sisters who had retired to rest in apparent health were before morning dead of cholera; in fact, dread reigned in every bosom, and the heat was appalling. Then succeeded the failure of crops, and immoderate dearness of provisions. It was during the height of this misery that a sudden order was issued, by which certain very strict regulations were imposed upon the distribution of ardent spirits from the canteen. I think none was to be served undiluted; and however requisite this restriction might be, it was considered by the soldiers to be a harsh measure, but they had fortunately sufficient regard for discipline to bear it without much murmuring. If they had been allowed to follow the bent of their own wishes, their potations would have been long and frequent. During the earliest dawn, they were generally to be seen in crowds traversing the short space which intervened between the canteen and their barracks; nor was the liquid fire by itself sufficient; in most cases there were to be found those who mixed with it the strongest possible decoction of the capsicum, and other spices; no wonder, therefore,

that they were predisposed to disease, and fell ready victims to its ravages. An amelioration quickly followed this new regulation; and the promoters of temperance societies had great cause to congratulate themselves upon the success of their measures.

The disappointment of our projected visit to Landour was in the end productive of a greater benefit; for the death of a near relative having rendered a return to England desirable, my husband then sent in an application to that effect; which being happily complied with, we joyfully prepared to retrace our steps to our native land.

Then came the sale of the bungalow, for which we fortunately met with a ready purchaser. This was followed by the multitudinous cares of engaging and furnishing a good boat, procuring a boat's crew and travelling servants, the sale of furniture and effects; the *pleasure* of seeing our dining-room turned into a sale-room, and articles, which the service of a few years had, in a measure, endeared to us, knocked down to the highest bidder. Then came the visits of leave-taking,

and the occasional regret, at the prospect of a lengthened separation, and, at last, the embarkation upon the rapid waters of the sacred Ganges.

On the 25th of November, 1837, we quitted Cawnpore for Calcutta, *en route* to England, on a leave of two years' absence from the regiment. The children (of whom we had three, the youngest being an infant) soon became accustomed to the unusual motion of the boat; and rejoicing in our emancipation, each step and hour seemed to bring us nearer to our home and our far-distant relatives.

We had then to look back upon the years we had passed at Cawnpore, and did so with varied feelings. Sickness had visited us, and during the first hot season in an appalling form; but the raging fever, and subsequent weakness, had been overcome, and we had been restored to health. The climate had, in some measure, affected us; but we had only experienced enough of its horrors to make us more sensible of our utter helplessness, and of our entire dependence upon the Almighty Being who had so mercifully preserved us from

its baneful consequences. During the last season we had seen the ravages of cholera, small-pox, and other fatal maladies; myriads of natives had been cut off by sickness or famine, and Europeans, in the prime of life, had fallen around us. During each succeeding year, we had found ourselves less able to bear the extreme heat, and had suffered more from lassitude; but then the winter months had always been a season of rejoicing and recruiting of strength; and nothing can be more enchanting than the weather which generally intervenes between the months of October and April. On the fine cold mornings in January, we had driven frequently to the ice fields; there to behold a thousand poor natives occupied in emptying the little earthen saucers which had been distributed over several acres of land for the production of the glittering treasure, which was to alleviate so greatly the horrors of the succeeding months, and had stood at the mouth of the deep receptacle, whilst the little urchins threw in their tiny loads, and received their instantaneous payment in the form of a few cowries.

There was one thing, which, in India, had always made a deep impression upon me — this was the band nights. Devoted as I was to music, the military bands which played almost every evening, and which, in most cases, were excellent, afforded a high gratification. As we sat listening to the admirable overtures which our Prussian band-master knew so well how to arrange and perform, our thoughts often homeward flew; and we almost, for a while, forgot that a quarter of the earth's surface divided us from the Italian opera-house. Often the lights which were provided for the musicians were our only illuminations, unless a lovely moon or the star-spangled heavens enlightened the surrounding darkness. A double or treble row of carriages generally encircled the band, and their occupants were *supposed* to be enchanted with the strains. Then did the gentlemen pass from fair to fair, not so much to gaze as to listen, and to impart a few words of flattery here, or satire there; then were the occurrences of the past day brought under review; a little scandal, and a little gossip, or some local politics, some fun,

and a great deal of flirtation. At such periods, even black and threatening clouds, or rolling thunder, were unable to disperse the assembled party. The external air and gentle zephyrs were too refreshing to be readily renounced; and I well recollect that one evening, when we had lingered at a distant band longer than was prudent, and then reluctantly turned to drive to our own lines, we were dismayed at beholding the tremendous clouds which threatened to burst upon us. The thunder and lightning were almost incessant, and the latter was our only guide. At one moment, the heavens were covered with forked meteors, at the next, we were enveloped in pitchy darkness.

CHAPTER XIV.

Departure from Cawnpore. — Numbers of Monkeys. —Near Allahabad, the Governor General's Camp Equipage crosses the River. — Self-inflicted Tortures of the Devotees at Allahabad. — Tale of Allahabad. — Confluence of the Jumna and Ganges. — Jour de fête of the Boat. — Honours paid to it by the Crew. — Description of the Boat. — Customs of the Boatmen. — Visits at Sultanpore and Dinapore. — The Steamers plying between Allahabad and Calcutta. — Rapacity of the Wolves. — Moorshedabad. — The Nawab's new Palace. — Berhanpore. — Chandenagore. — Arrival at Calcutta.

But to our departure. All things being finally arranged, we breakfasted for the last time with our liberal and kind-hearted colonel, who with his family had shown us the greatest possible consideration and friendship during the period of discomfort which had preceded our departure; and having got rid of clamorous crowds of applicants for "backshish" (presents), and the salaams and benisons of our discharged ser-

vants, we gladly dropped down the river for a few miles, and "lugaö'd" (moored) on its opposite bank. Our mode of life then became very agreeable, and an evening seldom occurred on which we were deprived of a stroll into the fields or topes bordering the river. One night we were amused to find ourselves surrounded by a host of monkeys of a larger kind than we had usually seen; they had taken possession of a large mango tope, and were, I imagine, religiously cared for by the Brahmins, who were assembled in an adjoining temple; and who seemed somewhat discomposed at our near approach. The monkeys, however, testified no sort of displeasure or fear, but ran chattering about us, or occasionally scampered off in groups to the trees, with their young ones clinging tenaciously to their backs, or hugged in their close embrace.

Our progress was sufficiently rapid; but as the river was unusually low, our boatmen occasionally contrived to run the boat aground; this mischance was, however, easily remedied; and in a moment the dandees (boatmen) were to be seen wading in the stream, and pushing their stranded vessel off the sand banks.

On the 29th of November, after several hours of very severe rowing, punting, and towing, our boat was brought to near Allahabad; but at a spot where the river is intersected by contending currents, and where the servants could not go ashore to purchase food, of which they complained that they stood in great need. During the day, they had seen an eagle pounce upon, and carry a fish from the water to the bank; they instantly raised such an outcry as induced the bird to quit his prey; which some of the men quickly seized upon as a great prize; but, alas! the ravenous bird had contrived to carry away at least half of its victim; and the disappointed dandees returned with only a mangled portion, which formed but a small accession to their evening's repast.

On the next morning we found ourselves nearly opposite to the fort, and had ample amusement in watching the passage of the Governor General's camp equipage across the river. The bank presented a scene of gay confusion, body-guard, carriages, horses, elephants, camels, and bullock hackeries all mingled together, with the usual number of tatoos and native con-

veyances of various kinds. The river was covered with laden boats; some of the elephants were still on their progress through the water, some reaching its banks, and others drying themselves in the sunshine. Crowds of natives were washing their linen or themselves, and all looked gay, bustling, and happy. The rudder of our boat had received an injury which required to be repaired; and as the Indian is by no means disposed for great celerity in his actions, we not only found time to visit once more the holy men of which I have already spoken, but to make a slight sketch of the distant city and its busy foreground. Near the prostrate form of Hunimaun we saw some figures which tempted me to conjure up a tale which I venture to insert in my journal; not, it is true, as one which actually occurred, but as one which might have occurred in this country of fanaticism. For awhile we contemplated the extraordinary objects which lay around us: on one side was an infatuated being, whose clenched hands had remained firmly closed until his nails had perforated their palms, through which they projected like the claws of a bird of prey; not content,



ALLAHABAD. PASSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S TENT EQUIPAGE.

Madeley Wm.

however, with this torture alone, he had contrived to twist his legs under his body in such form, that to restore them to their natural position would henceforth be impracticable; and thus had he compassed his own misery for upwards of seven years. Many poor wretches were lying totally denuded before fires which were constantly replenished by officious admirers, and this under the burning sun of India. Their emaciated forms were bedaubed with river slime, or more filthy ingredients, and their countenances were rendered hideous, by being plastered over with white chunam, which gave to their sunken eyes the most demoniacal appearance. Shuddering to behold their agony and infatuation, we were hastening from the dreadful scenes, when our attention was once more called to the figure of the monkey general as he lay extended on the ground. I made a hasty sketch of his godship, which, however, scarcely gives a true representation of his perfection of ugliness.

Whilst thus occupied, the suppressed moans of some being in the extreme of mental or bodily affliction fell upon our ears; and we then noticed, in one corner of the little enclosure, a

decrepit old woman who was wringing her hands in an agony of despair, tearing her disheveled locks, and using every gesture of impatience and distraction. Near her was seated an aged Brahmin, who, with much apparent satisfaction, smoked his hubble bubble and contemplated her sufferings with unmoved gravity: before her lay what I at first took to be a bundle of filthy rags; but which I afterwards discovered to be the tattered covering of an emaciated but still living creature.

With some hesitation we inquired of the Brahmin an explanation of this piteous scene*: at first he seemed unwilling to comply with our request; at length, however, actuated either by the hope of a trifling gratuity, or perhaps with a desire to show the justice of his divinities, and that a due meed of punishment had overtaken the guilty neglecter of their ordinance, he arose from the mat on which he had established himself, and motioning us to stand a little apart from the miserable woman,

* The miserable beings lay as described, but as the taciturnity of the Brahmin was not be shaken, I called in the aid of imagination to account for their distress.

again resumed his seat, and related to us the following

TALE OF ALLAHABAD.

The old woman whom you behold heart-broken, diseased, and forsaken by the gods, is a native of the little village of Arrah, a few kos from Dinapore. When I first knew her she was the wife of the "thanadar," or head man of the village, and was noted as much for the virtuous decorum of her conduct as for the fame of her all-surpassing beauty, which was, however, strictly hidden from the gaze of men. She had numerous children, and was blessed with many sons; all of whom were well-favoured and promising youths. But there came a time when dissensions broke out amongst them; the house of peace was turned into the abode of discord; and it became known that the partiality of that mother to her youngest born had given rise to quarrels amongst the brethren, and dissatisfaction and disunion between the parents.

According as her love for the poor being who lies in the dust before you increased, so did the hate of his brothers fall upon him, and the

house of the thanadar presented a continual scene of strife, riot, and disorder.

Miserable and disgraced in the eyes of his neighbours, the old man was gathered to his fathers, and it was then hoped that an end would be put to the contentions of his household, by the immolation of his widow on his funeral pile. I assisted at its kindling, and joined my voice with that of many others, that she would not fall back from the performance of her duty in the hour of trial; but she was deaf to the voice of entreaty, and her heart was hardened against the notes of persuasion; she became a laughing-stock and a by-word. Her descent was good, and her family had been honoured, but from them she became an outcast; and leaving the country of her forefathers, her people, and her kindred, her name was buried in oblivion: the sons of her house were scattered to the four winds of heaven, and no one knew whither she had gone.

A few moons only have shed their lustre since the young daughter of the powerful Rajah of Gunga-putun, the bride of Saädi, the descendant of an ancient and honourable line,

quitted the home of her fathers for the country of her betrothed. As usual, being the daughter of a prince, she was attended by armed and trustworthy followers. The wealth of her father had not been withheld, for treasure of incalculable value accompanied her; kelauts of inestimable worth and of countless multitude; elephants and horses magnificently caparisoned. Few had exceeded her in the richness of their dower, and none in the fame of their loveliness. In an evil moment they were attacked by a body of Dakoits, who proved too powerful for her defenders: the nature of the country through which they travelled favoured the attack, and her wealth became the prey of the spoiler. Ramsheran, the ill-governed son of that decrepit old creature, was one of the murderous gang: to him the fair face of woman was more attractive than gold. Fiercely he tore open the gorgeous canopy which concealed her from the public gaze, and beheld her, beauteous and affrighted. From that moment he became her most abject slave. Seizing her in his arms, he hastily dragged her from the midst of her female attendants, who, with shrieks and entreaties,

clung to her frail and delicate form as if for protection; but he bore her away, and, placing her in the "garee"* of one of her followers, soon contrived to elude the vigilance of her terrified and routed people. At the distance of a few kos from Hurdwar is the cave in which the holy fakir Futteh Ram Singh closed a life of penitence and prayer, thither did this desperado convey his ill-gotten prize; and, as if unmindful at once of the call of virtue and the sanctity of that spot, there did he feast his eyes upon the contemplation of her loveliness. Beautiful as the star of the morning, she sat in a remote corner of that cheerless habitation; but the abode of the holy man was her resting-place, and her tears fell where his had fallen. A blessing rested on that cave, and Brahma would not desert what had been the abiding place of his faithful follower. Misery would soon have been her destroyer, and the flood of unequalled grief would have overcome her, had not the avenger of evil been at hand to assist and console her.

Intoxicated with love, and driven to desperation by the continuance of her obstinate

* Garee, a native carriage.

regret, Ramsheran was one day venting curses on his destiny, when a holy man, whose devotion had led him to that cave, heard his cries and his blasphemies. Turning to behold the renegade, he recognised the son of his early friend, and sorrowing to see him thus degraded, he inquired of him his state, and wherefore were his curses.

Ramsheran confessed the evil of his life, and led the holy man to the place where sat the weeping daughter of Gunga-putun. "Miserable youth," cried the sage, "what portion will be thine?" "How will thy days be shortened?" "Give this daughter of beauty to her parents; restore the rose to the garden of delight."

The youth listened, and his heart became changed: he folded the beauteous maid in the garment of security, and under the guidance of the old man conveyed her to the home of her fathers.

Satisfaction followed not in the train of restoration: the wretched sinner experienced not the happiness of a pure heart, or the temporary sleep of a hardened one; but he vowed that so long as life should endure, he would

devote himself to holy and religious exercises, and that his tongue should never more perform its functions.

A short period has sufficed to bring him to the brink of the grave: he imposed upon himself an unparalleled fast; and came hither to spend the short remnant of his days. That wretched mother has discovered the place of his retreat; but though he has recognised her, his vow is unbroken: upon her head be the sin of a race dishonoured and forsaken, — it is her destiny.

We soon passed the confluence of the rivers Jumna and Ganges, and that sacred spot dedicated to the peculiar worship of the Hindoo deities; where upon a point of land we beheld crowds of Brahmins selling their blessings, their dispensations, and their charms, to the infatuated beings who are willing to traverse India to obtain them. We turned with feelings of loathing from the miserable beings who infested the entire neighbourhood, and were presently sailing gaily along, and succeeded in overtaking some boats which had started from Cawnpore before us, but which, drawing more

water, had advanced with greater difficulty than ours.

The 1st of December was the *jour de fête* of our boat. At mid-day our people rowed to the shore, where having lugaö'd, they commenced their pastime, first by bathing in the sacred stream; then having prepared large heaps of Hindoostanee sweetmeats, they presented them with all due respect to the boat; flowers and ghee accompanied the donations; garlands were hung around it in every direction, and its sides were bedaubed with grease, upon which they contrived to make small flowers adhere. This done, they brought a quantity of their delicious condiments to present to ourselves and the children, which, however, we begged to decline, and they concluded their festivities with a kind of chant in praise of their boat. What all this meant, we could not exactly make out, but took the liberty of imagining that the day was the anniversary of its launch.

It occurs to me at present to describe the plan of our boat, which was sufficiently comfortable to make us feel quite at our ease within

its boundaries. It was divided into three chambers; the centre one of which was, perhaps, somewhat larger than the others; the interior apartment was furnished with a substantial sea couch and with beds for the children; the centre one, with a dining table, sofa, chairs, and two chests of drawers; and the outer division was appropriated to the boxes and packages which might be required by the servants. In the hold of our little vessel were all our heavy boxes and baggage; and nearly on a level with it, at the stem of the vessel, the cooking department was carried on. This last is only admissible when a second boat is not provided for the purpose. This latter plan has of course its advantages, but subject, however, to the inconvenience of a delay in cases where the cooking boat is separated by any unavoidable circumstances from the boat in which the hungry voyagers are expecting to find their dinner served.

The rowers of this description of boat (the appellation of which I have entirely forgotten) are all seated on a kind of platform above the thatched roof: we had, I think, twelve in num-

ber besides the head-man or mangee, to whose directions they yield implicit obedience. No sooner was the boat lugaö'd on each evening, and the toils of the day over, than they assiduously set about the preparation of their repast; fires were quickly kindled, and their capacious pots soon boiling. About a pound of rice was generally the portion of each man, with an ample addition of curried vegetables, fish, &c. Their copper dishes shone with the care which was daily bestowed upon them; and surrounded by a circle traced in the sand, within which no one out of the pale of their own caste would venture to tread, they formed about as curious a group as it is easy to conceive. Having finished their meal, they frequently assembled on the platform, and whiled away an hour or two in listening to a tale recounted by one of their number; the monotonous recitation of which was only broken by an occasional exclamation of assent or disapprobation, according as the incidents pleased or offended them.

We reached Chunar by the 3d of December, and brought to at Sultanpore, as it was our in-

tention to remain a few days with Major —— of the 8th Light Cavalry, who was stationed in that place.

Hospitality is a virtue still practised to a great extent in Hindoostan; but on account of the establishment of hotels in the capitals, and rest-houses throughout most of the provinces, it is not so imperiously requisite to the traveller as it was in former days. Those, however, who have the good fortune to possess friends whose residence is fixed for awhile on the banks of the Ganges, may look with certainty to a plentiful supply of fresh provisions. Meat, wild-fowl, bread, butter, eggs, and vegetables, are almost invariably sent to the boats on the first intimation of their approach, or if the progress of the traveller will admit of a delay, a few days passed in a bungalow makes an agreeable variety to those who may consider the voyage monotonous.

We had seen Chunar on our upward journey; but as we beheld it on the present occasion from the centre of the river, under the powerful influence of strong light and shade, we thought the situation of its fort exquisitely beautiful.

The children were overjoyed at the prospect of passing a few days on shore: the freedom of a bungalow was delightful to them: they were almost wild with delight at being allowed to play with some young companions; and if memory be not more treacherous than I am disposed to think it, a ride upon Mrs. Murray's pony which was enjoyed by the eldest, then rather more than three years old, will, to her latest day, form one of the brightest spots in her reminiscences of India.

Sultanpore appeared a pretty station, and good gardens are in general attached to the bungalows: that which belonged to our kind host was of his own construction, and was filled with choice flowers; of which those from England were the most valued, because the most difficult to rear.

We remained with our relative until the fourth day, when charmed with our visit, and hoping to meet, ere long, in a better climate, we took our leave. Alas, how vain were our hopes! During the rainy season of the following year, he was appointed to the command of the Saugur local horse, and on his way to his destination unfortu-

nately attempted to cross the Billam-nuddee, near Mirzapore, which was much swollen: his horse suddenly lost his footing, and our friend was carried away into the torrent, whence he might still have escaped, as he was an admirable swimmer, if he could have succeeded in detaching a heavy cloak from around his throat, but his struggles were unavailing, and he was lost in the rapid waters. Thus perished a gallant soldier, an affectionate father and husband, and thus were a family of eight children deprived of their natural protector.

We reached Banares on the evening of the day we quitted Sultanpore,, and on the following day had a pleasant sail past the cantonment of Ghazeepore, where we lugaö'd for an hour, to enable the boat's crew to purchase provisions. Here we were assailed by crowds of poor creatures anxious to dispose of mowh cloth, rose-oil, rose-water, &c. After in vain trying to get rid of them, we purchased a bottle of what they called atta; but the man was in considerable danger of losing even the small sum for which he had sold it: the boat was pushed off the shore just as I had received the little bottle into my

hand; and though I ran in haste to fetch a rupee, the vessel was far from the bank before I could obtain one. However, we neared again a little lower down, and the old man waded into the water as far as he could, and received his pittance.

On the 10th we passed "Buxar," and lugaö'd near the bungalow of an acquaintance who had at that time charge of the Company's stud at "Kurruntadee;" here, again, we met with much kindness and liberality, and after staying one day progressed to Dinapore, which place we reached on the evening of the 13th.

At Dinapore we had a visit of greater length to pay. Our friends pressed us to partake of several gay entertainments, and introduced us to some agreeable people, amongst whom was a civilian from Patna, whose residence in India has been so prolonged, that, although a man of considerable literary and scientific acquirements, he feels something approaching to a difficulty in expressing himself in English; his thoughts, he said, were in Hindoostanee; and in habits and tastes he resembles much closer the native of India than the European.

He has possessed himself of one of the most valuable private libraries in India, its cost being upwards of a lac of rupees: he seldom enters into society, but lives in the midst of oriental luxury.

On the morning after our introduction, he sent me an elegant edition of an "Oriental Annual," and "Dollies," containing fruits, vegetables, flowers, &c., in endless profusion.

Being anxious to arrive in Calcutta before the commencement of the new year, we hastened from Dinapore on the 17th, and stopped at Monghyr for a single hour on the morning of the 20th, where we laid in a large supply of silks, toys, &c., and where we saw the two mighty steamers plying between Calcutta and Allahabad meet and pass each other; both were crowded with passengers. We came in view of Rajh Mahal and the ruins of Sultan Sujah's palace on the 24th, and thought we perceived many more dilapidations than when we had wandered through its ruined and desolate halls four years before.

About this period of our voyage we were several times startled by the sight of wolves

prowling along the banks of the river: the cries of the jackals were as usual incessant throughout the night; and we had become so accustomed to the sight of alligators basking in the mid-day sun, that we had ceased to take notice of them.

Of these creatures, perhaps the wolf is the most dangerous to man, as he is extremely apt to make an unlooked-for descent into the crowded bazaars during the dead hour of night, or prowl through the compounds amidst the unconscious sleepers; when woe to the unfortunate infant which may chance to be exposed to its attack. At Cawnpore during the hot season we frequently heard of some sudden bereavement of the kind. An infant sleeping on the same charpai with its parent was carried off; and on one occasion a boy of seven years of age fell a victim to a ravenous wolf, which having seized, and borne him to a neighbouring ravine, had torn and dreadfully mangled his flesh, before he was overtaken and driven from his prey; but too late, unfortunately, to save the poor child's life.

On Christmas day we rested on our voyage for an hour at Sooty; where, entering the

Boggaretti, and bidding farewell to the "Burra Gunga," we advanced quickly to "Jungepore," where we were obliged to remain for the night, in the midst of boats of every size and description. Here a toll is levied by government to meet the expenses which were incurred in deepening and clearing the stream. The pinnace pays the highest toll, then the budgerow, and all manner of country boats according to the number of their oars.

At Moorshedabad, we looked into the palace which the Company is building for the Nawab of that place; they being indebted to him in the sum of fourteen lacs of rupees, and preferring to dispose of the money on his account in this manner, rather than return him the same in specie. At this he is much dissatisfied, and is engaged in erecting another abode, which will at once vie with this one in splendour and magnificence, and be better suited to his eastern taste.

Here there is likewise a native college.

27th. We reached Berhampore by eight in the morning, and were quickly surrounded by venders of silk handkerchiefs, &c. &c., of which

we purchased a considerable quantity. We then took in a store of fresh provisions, strolled through the square and tenantless barracks, and proceeded on our way. Passing Chinsurah at two A. M. on the morning of the 1st of January, we lugaö'd for a few hours at Chandenagore, just as his Excellency the Governor was proceeding in state to the Catholic chapel attended by his sable body-guard. This pretty French station presented a droll air of gaiety on the occasion of the new year. The Portuguese inhabitants, of which there are many, have caught the style of the more tasteful settlers. Nothing was really French, but there was a deep shade of French upon every one; even a smart young Musslemaun valet, whom we observed upon the steps of the ghât, with his sentimental bouquet and rose-coloured scarf, was coquetting *à la Françoise* with a very pretty black-eyed ayah, who with well-feigned indifference chatted amongst a group of females, whilst her admirer lounged and attitudinised to his own very evident satisfaction.

Malgré nous, this was a *jour maigre* to us, for not a particle of meat was to be purchased in

any of the bazaars; and so great had been the demand for fish amongst the good Catholics, that one small "hilser" alone fell to our share. Thus disappointed, we gladly pushed on for Calcutta, but had to wait for the turn of tide at a timber yard about half way down.

For the last time we gazed upon the fertile banks of the Hooghly, on Barrackpore and its Danish *vis-à-vis*, on innumerable mosques, and crowded ghats; but a thick fog and darkness enveloped us before we could reach the city, and the navigation of the last few hours was attended with considerable danger. The river was, as usual, crowded with shipping, and we hailed with joy the termination of our voyage under the walls of Fort William.

The day after our arrival brought with it plenty of busy occupation, and the morning gun roused us to exertion.

Through every military station in India this signal acts like an enchantment: in a moment, all creatures spring into action, each band strikes up the *réveillée*, and on every hand life and animation take the place of slumber and repose. Startled by the sound, even the stately adjutant

arises from his recumbent position, and the crows and hawks, but especially the former, commence an intolerable screaming. Not a quarter was vacant in the fort at the period of our arrival in Calcutta; and as it was during the finest season for sailing, scarcely a house was untenanted either in Chowringhee or elsewhere. We were, however, fortunate in meeting with a friend, who offered us a comfortable suite of rooms in his own spacious residence, and of these we took immediate possession, where our first business was to surround ourselves with a few additional servants, and at least half-a-dozen dirzees (tailors), who were instantly set to work upon our sea wardrobe.

Arrangements for sailing were soon made. My husband obtained a charge of invalids and men whose period of service had expired; and the vessel to which he was appointed was quickly notified to us. We had not much time to devote to gaiety or amusement. A few entertainments varied our evenings' occupations; and farewell visits to some friends who were resident in Calcutta filled up all the time we had to spare.

CHAPTER XV.

Embarkation for England. — The Bustle and Confusion on board. — The Ship struck on a Shoal. —Imminent Danger of all on board.— A Mutiny amongst the Pigs. — A large Shoal of Porpoises. — The Ship anchors in Table Bay.— Annoyance from Rats on board the Ship. — Disagreements amongst the Passengers.

On the evening of the 24th of January, 1838, we embarked for England, amidst the confusion usually attendant on such scenes. Having made our way along the crowded deck, past baggage as yet not stowed away, passengers embarking, troops on board, the ship's crew more than half drunk, and scarcely a ship's servant in attendance, we at length reached our cabins. The children, as yet attended by their favourite khitmatgar and ayah, were to be consigned to the care of a stranger; but no sooner had they entered the crowded cabins, than they wept with disappointment and fear: in vain they clung to

their old friends, and entreated to be taken from the long talked of ship. Mosquitoes rose in countless myriads around us, and even the remotest chance of repose for that night seemed out of the question. I scarcely know how we became tranquillised. Food was, after considerable difficulty, obtained for the infants, and when night came, I believe we slept.

For several days our discomfort was considerable; but by throwing two cabins into one, and sending away every supernumerary article of furniture, and every box which could by any possibility be spared, we contrived to enjoy something like comfort.

The pilot left us on the 29th, after having had the ship aground twice: the second time was near finishing our career. At that terrible moment, on the 27th, at seven in the morning, I was in the cabin with the children, who were just commencing their breakfasts: in an instant the vessel lay over most fearfully: the water rushed past the open scuttles, but most providentially did not quite reach them; a quarter of an inch more, and the cabins would have filled. A loud shriek resounded through the ship: the

soldiers ran to the forecastle, and up the rigging, bellowing for assistance from dingee wallahs, or the steamer which had had us in tow, but from which we had broken loose, in consequence of the snapping in twain of the cables at the moment of the concussion. I believe every seaman on board gave the ship up for lost. My husband, who was on the poop, was heard to exclaim, "My wife, my children! what will become of them?" as he disappeared down the companion ladder; but a merciful Providence had interposed: though the vessel had struck with considerable violence, she was uninjured, and presently righted. Our danger had been imminent, but it was over, and little actual damage was the consequence.

As the vessel lay over, down went every article which had as yet been insecurely fastened. In our cabin, splash, splash, splash, went three large basins of hot sago, with their accompaniments of milk jug, spoons, sugar basin, tray, plates, &c. &c. Several heavy boxes which had not been properly lashed gave way; and in my horror I expected to see chests of drawers and sea chests fracture the

limbs of or crush to death the helpless little ones who lay screaming and terrified upon the floor. I recollect calling loudly for assistance, and attempting to close one of the windows, but the slippery state of the slanting floor rendered a passage over it impossible, and at each moment our alarm increased. My husband and the ship's surgeon simultaneously came to our assistance, and we thanked God that our lives had been spared.

The presence of the sago had proved particularly unfortunate; for exactly above where it had fallen stood a tolerably well filled set of book shelves, which, though lashed themselves, had not had their contents secured; from the shelves fell every volume: into the sago they rolled, and received much damage; whilst chess box, paint box, and drawing books, tumbled after them in glorious confusion.

At the moment of this great danger a poor invalid boy, whose life, however, had been previously despaired of, breathed his last. The cry of terror reached his ears, and the last lingering spark of his short existence at once expired.

From this period we went on tolerably well, only encountering one or two violent storms. One, in the vicinity of Madagascar, caused some of us to tremble for our safety; and a water-spout, at what appeared only a short distance from the vessel, was at once beautiful and awful.

Sharks and bonitos were harpooned, and the usual incidents of shipboard varied the monotony. One fine morning a regular mutiny amongst the pigs caused quite a sensation; for they having been turned loose upon the deck whilst their habitations were cleansed, received some insult from a Newfoundland dog which chanced to be on board: at once they commenced the wildest gambols, and, indignant at the slightest symptoms of coercion, set up a tremendous squealing, and made a grand scamper about the deck. At length they proceeded towards the cuddy; but the doors being suddenly closed, they made a dash at a port which was open. In spite of iron bars and other impediments, one was soon through and on the chains, whilst the others, in the act of following, were forcibly detained by some of the

seamen. For a few minutes the riot was deafening; but I think all the malecontents were secured except the one which might be considered their ringleader, for him we saw no more. In the course of a few hours, the largest shoal of porpoises I ever recollect to have seen were playing about the vessel, and springing from the water to a surprising height. On all sides they were rolling over, and appeared in an extraordinary state of bustle and excitement. I could not but imagine that they had fallen in with the captain's pig, and were on the look out for another *bonne bouche*. One of them was soon harpooned and hauled upon the forecastle, after which his companions speedily disappeared.

Two poor boys were consigned to the deep before we reached the Cape: one was a young midshipman who had for some time been declining; the other was the servant of a general officer, who had accompanied him to Calcutta, and was returning with him to Cape Town.

We anchored in Table Bay on the 2d of April; where we were obliged to remain for ten days, to leave some passengers and to take

on board others; but even before that period, quarrels and disagreements had broken out in the ship, which afterwards reached an intolerable height, and caused all on board to look with anxiety to the termination of the voyage.

Whilst in Table Bay, some hundreds of large craw-fish were caught, and thrown on deck by the ship's crew. Many of them were eaten, and otherwise disposed of; but when a few days had elapsed, baskets full of them, after having been boiled, were returned to the sea. Boat-loads of fish of various kinds were likewise captured, and prepared by the sailors for subsequent use.

The most delicious fruits were daily brought or sent on board, as grapes, figs, &c. were just in perfection; but great complaints were made that all kinds of ship's stores, meat, vegetables, and eggs, were intolerably dear: the farmers in the interior were withholding their supplies; and Dingan and his followers were keeping Southern Africa in a state of disquietude.

We were glad to make sail from this place, and with a most favourable breeze came in sight of St. Helena on the 23d of April, where we landed for a few hours, in order to see the

tomb of Bonaparte; but it chanced to be a day of Longwood races, and to obtain a carriage seemed at first next to impossible; some were, however, put in requisition; and I believe before night all were satisfied that they had seen enough of the rocky isle.

On the 28th we came in view of Ascension, in sight of whose barren rock we experienced some of the worst weather we had encountered throughout the voyage. About the same time we began to be dreadfully annoyed by rats, with which the vessel swarmed to such a degree, that during the nights we dared scarcely close our eyes, so serious were their attacks upon the children. One of them, a little girl between two and three years of age, was repeatedly bitten in the temples, hands, and feet; and when, by a shriek, she brought us to her assistance, we invariably found her covered with blood, and bathed in perspiration. On more than one occasion, we sought the aid of the surgeon to check the flow of blood, fearing lest some serious injury had been inflicted. The youngest child, an infant, was dreadfully bitten on the forehead

whilst sleeping in my arms, and even my husband did not escape, but received a wound in his foot, which rendered him lame for some weeks subsequently. In vain we watched for our tormentors: if we closed the Venetian blinds, we were suffocated with heat, for the weather did not admit of any windows in the ship being open; and if we left them apart, we admitted free ingress to the horrid creatures, who, having once tasted blood, nightly returned to their repast.

At length their numbers became diminished, by means of traps baited with the fresh water, for which they thirsted, and in one day, I think, nineteen or twenty were caught and executed.

Serious, however, as this inconvenience was, it was a trifle to the annoyance caused by the misunderstandings and shameful misrepresentations which crowded upon each other during the latter days of our voyage; and the very persons who ought to have checked and discountenanced every thing of the kind were they who industriously spread and invented calumnies; even eaves-droppers were employed at the venetians of certain cabins, and the testimony of servants taken in corroboration of inventions

which were too absurd even to admit of a contradiction from men of honourable and gentlemanlike sentiments.

A constant sparring was kept up amongst the passengers, whose senseless quarrels frequently originated from the fact of their having young families on board; and in the motley collection of individuals generally congregated in a vessel from our East Indian possessions there are generally a sufficient number to be found, who are foolish enough to take offence at trifles, or who, fearful of interference with their whims or private arrangements, fancy themselves slighted and undervalued, should any one dare to remark upon their proceedings, or show by their actions how little account is taken of the self-important Indian. Having been considered "Burra Sahibs," and accustomed to exercise a temporary control in the districts over which they may have had dominion, the Company's civil servant is too often disposed to forget, that he must no longer expect implicit obedience to his wishes; and he whose will has so long been law has no idea of an opinion opposed to his own.

CHAPTER XVI.

Hints to the Young and Inexperienced. — General Observations. — A general Inquisitiveness exists amongst the old Residents in India. — A Contrast between the Passengers in Outward-bound and Homeward-bound Ships. – Arrival in England.

I CANNOT conclude my remarks upon our voyage without offering a few words of advice to those young people who may be placed in circumstances similar to these which I have so lately witnessed, and whilst I find still fresh in my recollection the numerous inconveniences and absurdities to which a "griff," or new comer, is always subjected, if unguarded by a vigilant companion, or unwarned beforehand by an experienced friend.

I am surprised that this subject has not received more consideration from those whose talents capacitate, and whose benevolence instigates them to write upon those topics which present a field worthy of their exertion. To advise

the young, to warn the unwary, and to direct them to the path by which they may obtain honourable distinction, and the esteem of good men, is at all times an office worthy of the philanthropist; but to render these kind services to young persons of both sexes on their departure to British India, the largest and most important of our colonies, is to lend assistance at a moment when it is most particularly needed.

Separated from parents whose fond admonitions have hitherto been the guide of all their actions, the young voyagers are suddenly thrown upon their own resources. The world is large enough for all; but it is not so large as to enable its sojourners to steer sufficiently clear of each other, to avoid conflicting interests and baneful associations.

Parents! send not your children beneath the fierce sun of India, and amidst the luxurious indulgences of its inhabitants, without acquainting them with their fascinations, without warning them, I will not say against their fellow-mortals, but against the perverted hearts of many of those with whom they are likely to be surrounded.

Would that I were better qualified to perform the task to which my inclination leads me, that I were as powerful in expression as I am ardent in feeling; more gladly should I then labour to bring out the lights and shadows of an Indian life.

To my own sex I would address myself; for many of them are indeed lamentably misled; and to how low a depth have I seen some of them fall in the enervating climate of Hindoostan!

In order to prepare girls for what is vulgarly called the "Indian market," that is to say, in order to fit them to become wives and mothers in India, something more is surely requisite than the paltry educations which the generality of them at present receive. By a more rational mode of treatment they might be better enabled to resist the temptations, and shun the vices, of the society of India; whereas at present the outward form receives all the decorations, and the empty-headed girl, bent upon gaining an establishment, marries her wealthiest suitor without regard to age or character; and perchance, before the year has

flown, sacrifices his honour and her own by eloping with some young stripling as thoughtless and worthless as herself.

To you, then, who are hastening to those scenes which possess so much fascination, I address myself. With the pain of separation from your friends, long loved and honoured, is mingled the excitement which the young and ardent feel under the prospect of a total change of circumstances: your horizon is tinged with bright and varied hues; may it never be dimmed by misfortune, or sullied by disgrace!

I wish not to check the happy flow of spirits which are now your blessing and support; you have need of them; but let me add thereto a thought of the dangers by which you will be surrounded in a land of heathen darkness; where you will be in the midst of temptations, and where Christianity itself languishes; where the climate is so inimical to the external forms of religion, that during several months of the year many persons are totally unable to enter the churches in consequence of the excessive heat, which they are utterly unable to endure; in fact, to such a degree does it affect even the

devout and anxious observer, that the remark of a learned divine, noted as much for his zeal as his piety, was too often misapplied, and used as a sanction by those who gladly caught at it. "I cannot be surprised," he said, "at the great neglect of religion which is visible in this country; for I must confess that I very often feel like a boiled cabbage" — so totally prostrated were his energies.

There is one serious error which struck me with appalling force in the society of India, which, whether derived from the native population, or a plant of spontaneous growth amongst the British settlers, is not the less contemptible, or to be shunned — it is the disregard of truth which is apparent in some transactions.

Persons seem to have established a kind of right to ask impertinent questions, which, in good society at home, would stagger the most self-possessed,— as the expense of every article, whether concerning the *ménage* or the wardrobe. "C'est selon la coutume du pays;" and I have frequently heard a lady newly arrived from England questioned as to the price

of her bonnet, the name and residence of her milliner, and her particular charges. To some, even this may not appear very remarkable; but the inquisitiveness of older residents regarding each other is not less particular. Perhaps it may in some measure be accounted for by the deceit and cunning which is practised by every native tradesman, and by the necessity of cheapening all articles before closing a bargain; in fact, you may generally consider that one third of the price demanded is sufficient; and even then you will often find that you gave double the usual price.

It is not, however, the impertinent questions themselves of which I am led to complain, but it is the manner in which they are frequently answered; and this arising from the want of tact to evade, or the resolution to decline, giving a direct reply, added to an unwillingness to grant the required information. A new arrival is startled to find her dress an object of remark, but this is likely enough to happen where so many months must intervene between the issuing of the last new "*mode de Paris,*" and its exhibition.

But let us say a few words more especially on the subject of the voyage. Carefully avoid forming any intimacies with your fellow-passengers at an early period, even with those of your own sex; with others I can scarcely recommend you so much as to commence an acquaintance.

The captain generally considers himself called upon to walk the quarter-deck with young ladies who may be on board his vessel, unless they are under the especial charge of any other person, or decline his asistance.

In most cases you had better accept his attentions, as you cannot walk without the support of some one; and as he is in a responsible situation, to him you would have to look under any circumstances of annoyance or discomfort.

Should the *skipper* have his wife on board, do not take for granted that she is a gentlewoman, although such she may very possibly be; but when females are constantly exposed to the very questionable society of shipboard, and their ears are always open to the coarse jests of the ill-educated, their minds become vitiated, their feelings hardened, and they no longer see

things as others see: they are too often bent upon exciting a transient admiration, and wish for no rivals in the circumscribed sphere of their empire.

Quarrels are extremely likely to occur on shipboard where so many persons of totally different tastes, pursuits, and feelings are constantly brought together. Should the slightest disagreement occur, or should any one have reason to think ill of another, or even conceive an ungrounded dislike, the total impossibility of avoiding the individual adds momentarily to the annoyance which is felt. Bad weather induces bad spirits and feelings; slights lead to insults; and a voyage is too frequently concluded by one or more hostile meetings, or the recollection of it embittered by unkind, unjust, or malicious conduct.

I especially warn you against forming intimacies, because, should you find occasion to alter your opinion of a person, and wish to withdraw from further association with her, experience may teach you a useful but a bitter lesson. A bad-hearted woman may speak evil of those who do not fall into her opinions;

and woe to the unprotected girl who enters into the society of Calcutta with even one slanderous tongue raised against her fair fame!

Enter with earnestness on some particular study: the breakfast hour being generally between eight and nine, and the dinner hour not earlier than three o'clock, you may enjoy a long uninterrupted interval between those two meals. Suppose you commence the study of Hindoostanee; you will find even an imperfect knowlege of it greatly serviceable on your arrival in India, and, if provided with a grammar and dictionary, you will easily acquire a tolerable insight into the language. Should this pursuit prove unattractive, propose to yourself a regular course of rational reading, including works on India, whence you may derive both information and amusement; for as you are going to visit the country, you have a strong inducement for gaining intelligence of its peculiar features.

I recollect being much pleased with a work written by Mrs. Meer Hassan Ali, regarding the "Musslemauns of India;" "Jacquemont's Letters" also are very interesting; but since

there are so many almost equally good, it is unnecessary to particularise. It is, however, the gross ignorance regarding every thing appertaining to India that I have often seen exhibited which is so strongly to be reprehended; and I have often felt half provoked, since my return to England, at the indifference with which the generality of people view every narration which relates to that most interesting part of the world.

Whatever plan you lay down for yourself, determine to adhere to it, and do not allow every change in wind or weather to divert your attention from your employment, or tempt you to the quarter-deck.

The evening of each day is frequently devoted to relaxation and exercise; consequently, when the weather is favourable you may enjoy a promenade on the quarter-deck, or inhale the fresh sea breezes from the poop: but be not too ready to join the gossiping party at the cuddy table, although I by no means wish to discountenance work, chess, books, or music, at this period of the day; only I warn you against being too precipitate in forming the intimacies

which these amusements frequently induce. I need not, I trust, point out the propriety of attending divine service on the Sunday mornings when the weather is favourable. There are, I believe, few ships in which this ordinance is not observed; and I never recollect to have been more deeply impressed with devotional feelings than when listening to our beautiful liturgy from the lips of a captain of a merchant vessel, the union jack being the appropriate adornment of the capstan, and uncouth sailors, in cleanly attire, his attentive audience; whilst the immeasurable ocean surrounded us, and brought to view our extreme diminutiveness in the scale of the vast creation.

The lower stern cabins are, I think, the most agreeable in the ship, as they are further removed from the noise of the poop and quarter deck, and in them the motion of the vessel is much less felt than in the upper ones. Furnish your cabin with every requisite comfort, and in it make and feel yourself at home.

There are, it must be acknowledged, a variety of opinions as to what are useful occupations for young females who have no particular do-

mestic duties with which to employ every moment of their lives. Separated, as I will imagine that you are, from your parents, your filial duties are nullified; you are neither wives nor mothers, therefore the imperious duties exacted by those ties you are as yet not called upon to fulfil: your time and thoughts are your own; employ them, my young friends, in improving your hearts and cultivating your minds. Turn your thoughts upon yourselves; gain stability of character, decision without obstinacy, and, with the right of thinking for yourselves, acquire the power of thinking rightly.

Employ the fleeting hours, value them, and, let me add, enjoy them, for such may never be yours again.

The first break in the voyage is generally looked to by all on board with keen anxiety; and perhaps nothing can be more exhilarating than the sudden change from the restraint of shipboard to the freedom of shore. The prospect of landing, therefore, at the Cape, or elsewhere, often absorbs the conversation for a considerable time before the vessel reaches the

wished-for port; and the retrospect is often a fertile theme during the remainder of the voyage: such at least was the case amongst an intellectual few who set foot on the classic ground of St. Helena, as each day saw the subject renewed; and the Yamstocks (inhabitants of St. Helena) would have felt flattered had they known what a lively interest their very appellation had excited.

On the outward-bound passage a vessel is generally filled with the young, the happy, and the inexperienced; those who, just emancipated from school or college, take delight in every change, and view all things *couleur de rose*. But in the homeward-bound ships what a contrast! Old Indians returning to England after the lapse of many, many years, perhaps to find small traces of those they left honoured and beloved. Their habits of life are now unsuited to the domestic rules of modern days; their requirements are without bounds; and their shivering frames totally unable to encounter the rough blasts of the land of their birth. Or the young but emaciated wanderer, scarce able to crawl along the quar-

ter deck, after a few short years has become prematurely aged, and hardly dares to hope that disease has not taken an irresistible hold on his constitution: he gasps for the air which may revive his drooping energies, and hails with joy each favourable gale.

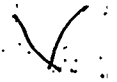
Perhaps, as happened in our case, there may be a detachment of invalid soldiers on board: in their wan countenances dissipation and exposure to the climate of India have marked their dreadful ravages, and they are returning unfit for any service. My heart often bled for those unfortunates. What is to become of such wrecks of human-kind? They have been well clothed and fed, and their bodily ailments have been carefully regarded; but as far as respects a future provision for themselves they are as helpless as children. How, then, are they to exist in comfort? nay, how are they to escape starvation upon the scanty pittance which they are to receive? so small is their miserable recompense after a lengthened servitude, and a banishment of perchance twenty years from their native land to the most enervating and trying climate in the world.

Of Europe, we first came in sight of Ushant; the Isle of Wight then met our longing eyes; and on the 10th of June we were once more surrounded by affectionate relatives.

THE END.

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